Torres backs Iakopo for MVA post. PAGE 3
11 new citizens sworn in. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 88

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Divert airfield pact signed

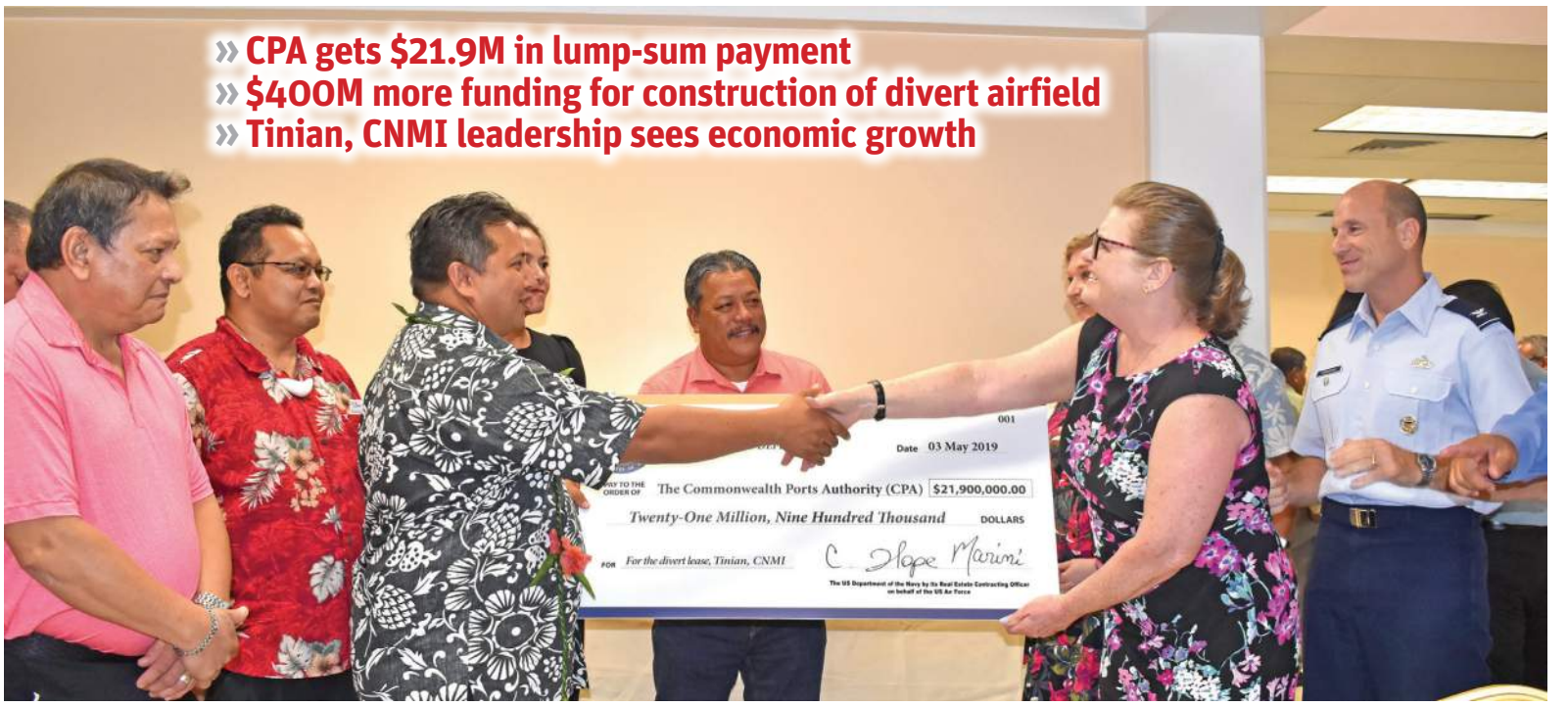
» CPA gets $21.9M in lump-sum payment
» $400M more funding for construction of divert airfield
» Tinian, CNMI leadership sees economic growth

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—The U.S. Department of Defense, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the CNMI government made history last Friday, signing off on a 40-year lease agreement worth $21.9 million for certain airport and seaport properties on Tinian for the U.S. Air Force's divert airfield.

Those properties are mostly lands on the north side of the Tinian International Airport, said Joint Marianas commander

See DIVERT on Page 4


001
Date 03 May 2019
PAY TO THE ORDER OF
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) $21,900,000.00
Twenty-One Million, Nine Hundred Thousand DOLLARS
FOR For the divert lease, Tinian, CNMI
C. Hope Marini

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reaches out to shake the hand of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Allison R. Sands after signing last Friday on Tinian the 40-year lease agreement worth $21.9 million for certain airport and seaport properties on Tinian for the Air Force's divert airfield project. Also in the photo are Commonwealth Ports Authority board members, Tinian leadership, and Department of Defense officials and representatives.

ROSELYN MONROYO

Justin Ocampo, leftmost, the 2019 AG Cup winner, poses for a photo with, from left, Guam Attorney General Leevin Camacho, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, Gretchen Smith, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, and Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

REICA RAMIREZ

MCS' Ocampo wins AG's Cup

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Justin Gerald Ocampo of Mount Carmel School won the 35th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition last Friday, besting six other high schools that participated in the annual competition

Ocampo was particularly proud about bringing home the trophy after the school won second place last year. He said, "The award is not for me. This is for my team, my coach, and my school."

Grace Christian Academy's Lanz Jabez Victoria came in second place

See MCS on Page 4

Torres' Cabinet is now complete

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration's official family is now complete, with the Senate confirming four more Cabinet secretary nominees during a session on Tinian last Friday.

The new Cabinet members are David Atalig (Finance), Marianne Teregeyo (Public Lands), Robert Hunter (Community and Cultural Affairs), and Mark Rabauliman (Commerce).

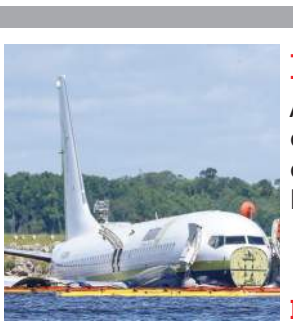
Atalig is a new appointee while Teregeyo, Hunter, and Rabauliman are all re-appointees.

They join Vicky Benavente (La-

See TORRES on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Hunting for relics of World War II is not just a hobby but a way of life for Fabian Indalecio.
PAGE 8



NATION
A military-chartered jet carrying 143 people crash-lands in a river. Everyone's safe.
PAGE 17

ASIA
Thal King Maha Vajiralongkorn is crowned amid the splendor of the country's Grand Palace.
PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

Internet gaming bill back in committee

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House of Representatives bill that would allow internet gaming in the CNMI has been sent back to the House Committee on Gaming, for the panel to further study the law's impact on the community.

House Bill 21-31, introduced by vice speaker Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), would authorize each senatorial district in the CNMI—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—to establish and regulate Internet gaming.

The Gaming Committee, chaired by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan), has already recommended the passage of the bill, saying it finds no risks to the community if "properly regulated."

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) pointed out, though that the CNMI Office of the Attorney General says it is not clear which agency would regulate internet gaming if it is signed into law.

"The [Commonwealth] Casino Commission, do they have the capacity to do that? When we know that they don't have the capacity to properly regulate the casino industry right now," Sablan said. "The bill [nor] the committee report…address the AG's concerns on the constitutionality of having Senatorial Districts regulate these matters."

When asked, Yumul said no public hearings were held on the bill since the gaming committee didn't see any conflict "since we are pretty much enhancing the gaming industry in the CNMI. There will be a companion bill and that would allow us to do public hearings."

"Any concern that may be brought up can be discussed there. We are just allowing additional gaming enhancement in the CNMI that would benefit each senatorial district. If members believe otherwise, we would accept it and go through the process of a public hearing," Yumul said.

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said he does not oppose the idea of allowing internet gaming in the CNMI, but thinks that more time is needed to review the bill "so that the concerns by the AG and anybody who is not a member of the gaming committee might be addressed."

"Because of our current economic state, we want to push for any revenue generating bill as much as possible. But we have to remember that we have a duty to ensure that we put the best bills forward and in the best language possible," Propst added.

Deleon Guerrero sees no problem in having his bill return to the gaming committee. "We are financially struggling and this bill does not establish regulations on entities or agencies; it only allows senatorial districts for revenue generating process. if they want to bring the bill back to the committee for further discussion, I'm amenable."

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) is less optimistic. He believes the bill might not prosper. "Even though if we pass this [H.B. 21-31], the AG will have a different opinion. I'm not saying no on the intent of this bill but we must look into it more closely."

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9th Circuit reconsiders ruling, affirms conviction of 'ice' shipment defendant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In reconsidering its previous ruling, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the conviction of a man who was sentenced to 63 months in prison for his role in the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" to the CNMI in 2015.

The Ninth Circuit judges ruled last Saturday that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona did not abuse her discretion by instructing the jury on deliberate ignorance in the case of Zhaopeng Chen.

The judges—Mary M. Schroeder, Eugene E. Siler, and Mary H. Murguia—said they reviewed Manglona's decision to give a deliberate ignorance instruction for any abuse of discretion, and, in determining the applicability of the jury instruction, they must take the evidence in the light most favorable to the the U.S. government.

They said Manglona's instruction correctly explained the two requirements the jury would have to find. They determined that the evidence "viewed in the most favorable light to the government supported the instruction."

When the case was still on trial, Manglona instructed the jury that the court could find that Chen acted knowingly if it found "beyond a reasonable doubt" that [Chen] was aware of a high probability that drugs were being picked up from the Sunleader warehouse, and [Chen] deliberately avoided learning the truth."

The judges said despite participating in activities highly indicative of drug dealing, Chen never asked the co-conspirators any questions.

"Under the totality of these circumstances, a jury could reasonably conclude that Chen's failure to inquire or investigate constitutes deliberate ignorance," the judges said.

Chen's co-conspirators,Xi Huang and Shicheng Cai, have both pleaded guilty.

The other issue presented before the 9th Circuit was Manglona's denial of Chen's request for judgment of acquittal at the close of the government's case in chief.

The 9th Circuit judges said they reviewed the constitutional sufficiency of the evidence to support a criminal conviction by "viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution" and determining whether "any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt."

Here, the judges said, the essential elements of conspiracy are "an agreement to accomplish an illegal objective and the intent to commit the underlying offense."

Torres backs Iakopo for MVA post

TINIAN—Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed support Friday for the appointment of former Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief financial officer Priscilla Iakopo as managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In an interview, Torres said the choice eventually falls on the MVA board and he respects whoever the board chooses but, if it chooses to give her that opportunity, then he supports it.

Torres said he respects the MVA board's decision and he is unsure at that time if the MVA board has officially notified Iakopo about an appointment.

"But if she is appointed, I want to congratulate her," said Torres, adding that he has not gotten an official notification from the board.

As to concerns expressed by some people on social media that Iakopo having no background in the tourism industry, Torres said his administration gives everybody the opportunity to serve. "How many of us are given that opportunity? She has a master's degree. So, she is highly educated," he pointed out. "She is educated. She went to school, she came back, she is here now. Why not give her the opportunity? It's an experience."

Torres said he wants to give others the opportunity to prove themselves and that, in fact, he wants it known in the community that he and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios are willing to give experience to people.

The MVA board met on Tinian last Friday.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce refused to comment if they talked about Iakopo's nomination.

A source earlier disclosed that Iakopo will be appointed as the next MVA managing director. As of last Friday, Iakopo was still in the U.S. mainland, another source said.

Iakopo was hired as CFO of CHCC, then was subsequently assigned to CHCC's procurement office. She was one of many applicants for the MVA managing director post.

Christopher Attao Concepcion resigned as managing director last March 12. MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres is acting managing director. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DIVERT

From Page 1

Shoshana S. Chatfield.

The CPA board of directors led by chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds approved a CPA resolution on the lease agreement with the U.S. DoD during the CPA board meeting at the Tinian International Airport's departure terminal.

The deal will allow the Air Force to use Tinian as an alternative landing site for its planes—a divert airfield—in case Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is inaccessible due to war or calamities.

CPA received a lump-sum payment of $21.9 million after the signing of the lease agreement and after years of negotiations,

The lease agreement is expected to spur economic activities on the island as it will directly benefit the people of Tinian through infrastructure improvement of the Tinian International Airport, public roads, and community facilities around the island.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was among those who spoke during the public comments of the meeting.

"For the great people of Tinian, congratulation for the resolution that has been well negotiated," Torres said.

The governor conceded that military matters on the islands are very sensitive matters, but he is happy with the CPA and Tinian leadership in finally going through with the divert airfield project.

"What is best for Tinian is best for the CNMI," he added.

Among the signatories of the lease agreement were Torres, King-Hinds, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Real Estate Division director Hope Marini, CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio, Joint Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshana S. Chatfield, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Allison R. Sands.

In an interview, King-Hinds said that getting the Tinian airport to a level that will allow it to welcome international flights requires a fuel storage facility and getting the airport's buildings up to federal code, which include the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection component.

King-Hinds said it is their hope that this lease agreement creates a lot of jobs to Tinian.

King-Hinds, however, clarified some misunderstanding and misconception about this close to half a billion-dollar construction that is coming. "That goes to the building of their [U.S. Department of Defense] infrastructure and we have no control over who gets to work on those projects," she pointed out.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Date 03 May 2019
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) $21,900,000.00
Twenty-One Million, Nine Hundred Thousand DOLLARS
For the divert lease, Tinian, CNMI

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Allison R. Sands hold the symbolic $21.9 million check as Department of Defense's lump-sum payment to the Commonwealth Ports Authority for the 40-year lease of certain airport and seaport properties on Tinian for the Air Force's divert airfield project. Also in the photo are CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds and CPA board members as well as Defense's officials.

ROSELYN MONROYO

King-Hinds is hoping that these federal contractors use local businesses, patronize local businesses, and subcontract local needs to be able to come and work on these projects.

"I'm kind of hoping that this will translate into something that is economically beneficial," she said.

Obviously, there will be a lot of people who are going to come and stay on the island during the construction period, she said. This, she said, will translate into hotel occupancy tax and possibly the re-opening of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

"I hope it will happen," said King-Hinds.

As for what's next, King-Hinds said that, as far as the divert project is concerned, there will be negotiations on what's called a service operating agreement. She said as a result of the Air Force's footprint at the airport, there is going to be additional maintenance cost and additional personnel cost. There will also be additional utilities cost because the Air Force will be hooking to CPA's grid.

King-Hinds said what they hope to see is additional funds coming to CPA and, for Tinian, more job opportunities for its people.

"And that's how I hope that will translate into a direct benefit to the community," she said.

King-Hinds said they are going to return to the table next week to begin talking about the process and timelines. "We will know a little bit next week. So, this is kind of first phase," she said.

King-Hinds said the divert airfield is not only a training but an operational requirement for the Air Force. She said in the event that something catastrophic happens to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, the Air Force needs somewhere to go.

As for its operational requirement, King-Hinds said the Air Force has training requirements annually and do humanitarian relief exercises as well, so if there is a typhoon, they practice how they would respond to that.

Torres said the Air Force first wanted the divert airfield to be on Saipan, while the CNMI and CPA wanted it be on Tinian. The Air Force came back with a counter-offer: they wanted to do a little bit of it on Saipan and most of it on Tinian. CPA responded by insisting that the matter is non-negotiable, that if the Air Force wants the divert airfield, it will be on Tinian—to benefit Tinian and the CNMI.

For that success, Torres credits King-Hinds and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Allison R. Sands.

"Both of them have gone through the extent of negotiating, making sure that our concern is met as well as their project is also met and that's the reason why we are here," Torres said.

The governor is thankful of the support from CPA board, its employees, and to Department of Defense partners in addressing the CNMI's concerns as they move forward.

With the lease signed, what follows is $400 million worth of construction on Tinian—at the airport and at the seaport—to prepare for divert construction activities, said Sands in an interview.

"So a lot of construction," Sands said.

One of those projects is a fuel pipeline that would run from the seaport to the airport.

That project would help commercial airplanes have access to fuel at the Tinian airport, which they don't have today.

"And that is critical for bringing in commercial flights," Sands said.

"I think, first of all, the immediate issue will be the construction work that is going to happen," Sands said, adding that not only will there be an opportunity for skilled labors locally but also the additional people that will be brought in for the long construction period.

Sands sees more tourists coming in with an improved airport.

Chatfield said this will enable them to put down concrete on the north side of Tinian airport to allow for larger aircraft to land—aircraft that can be used for refueling missions on air.

Chatfield said they will also create a large fuel storage facility.

The $21.9 million, she said, will be used by CPA in improving both the airport and seaport on Tinian.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan said they are very grateful to the leadership of the Torres administration and to the Tinian and Aguigan Legislative Delegation and Tinian Municipal Council.

Aldan said the divert project has been negotiated for a couple of years and that he is happy that they finally signed the lease agreement.

He said the $21.9 million being wired to a CPA account is to be used to do major projects for the airport and the seaport.

Aldan said he believes majority of these funds will be dedicated to the airport and some funds will be dedicated to the seaport.

What makes Aldan excited about this is that there will be more other projects.

"The people of Tinian have waited for this for a long, long time," the mayor said.

This $21.9 million, the mayor said, is going to be disbursed by CPA and the immediate impact to the island's economy will be huge during the construction period, such as food and lodging.

The other signatories of the lease agreement were Pacific Air Forces Force Posture Division Col. Michael E. Gimbrone and project manager realty specialist Kirstin M. Punu.

CPA staff attorney Joseph Hallahan and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific associate counsel Steven Daugherty Sr. also signed the agreement.

According to CPA's resolution, the U.S. government, through the U.S. Air Force, signed the Record of Decision for the Divert Activities and Exercise, CNMI Final Environmental Impact Statement on Dec. 7, 2016.

These facilities are intended to be built largely on the north side of the Tinian airport. Additional facilities required for the U.S. to achieve divert capabilities are intended to be built at the Port of Tinian.

U.S. Congress has appropriated $21.9 million for the acquisition of the properties.

The U.S., through its Department of the Navy, sent a formal request to Torres on Jan. 18, 2018, expressing its intent to acquire additional interests and rights in property on Tinian.

MCS

From Page 1

and Marianas High School's Shea Kennedy Hartig came in third place.

This year's topic focused on the legalization of cannabis in the CNMI. The students presented different speeches explaining if Public Law 20-66, also known as the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, is a cure or a curse for the CNMI.

In his speech, Ocampo explained the steps that need to be taken to ensure that the marijuana industry is effectively regulated and distributed. "We can take [many steps] to regulate an industry that will honestly be almost impossible to regulate. And while it is unfortunate that this industry was legalized in the first place, the least we can do is minimize its harms on our community," he said.

Mount Carmel School's president Galvin Deleon Guerrero was also awarded a "special award" in recognition of his longstanding commitment to the competition.

When asked about the secret behind Mount Carmel's winning streak in the AG's Cup, Deleon Guerrero explained that it's all about caring. Every year, he coaches students that care passionately about what they say. "We need to be less judgmental and more caring for one another because that's what we need a little more of in this world," he added.

The other student competitors were Caleb Joshua Yan from Eucon Internation School, Anhkiet Huyn from Kagman High School, Jeremiah Joel C. Fernandez from Saipan Southern High School, and Valeria Myers from Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./ Sr. High School.

Judging the speech competition this year were current and former attorneys general, Guam Attorney General Leevin T. Camacho, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, and Chief Judge for the District Court of the NMI Ramona V. Manglona.

The competition is usually held at the CNMI Supreme Court but was held this year at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

TORRES

From Page 1

bor), James Ada (Public Works), Tony Benavente (Lands and Natural Resources), Robert Guerrero (Public Safety), Clyde Norita (Fire and Emergency Management Services), and Vincent Attao (Corrections) as members of the Torres administration's official family.

Atalig, who just returned to Saipan after years of working and living in the U.S. mainland, said he is ready to make positive changes to the department and looks forward "to being more efficient and effective as I move [Finance] in a new strategic direction."

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said that confirming all Cabinet nominees is the final part of the confirmation process that began with public hearings on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

"Today is the final action of our work. A lot of concerns were raised and we discussed it thoroughly. We also took into our account those who objected and they submitted their objections during the hearings. We encouraged the secretaries to take heed of these concerns and try to address them," said Hofschneider.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) thanked the administration for re-appointing Teregeyo and for appointing Atalig at Finance.

She said that she knows what challenge Atalig will be facing at Finance. "For the past couple of months, we have heard and read reports of our dwindling economic condition, thus austerity measures are put in place. For the past couple of months also, our… senatorial delegation have been provided with figures that were, perhaps, inconsistent or inaccurate. Therefore, we ask that you thoroughly review or re-assess the books and provide our delegation your findings so we can move forward with appropriations to help address some critical or pressing needs for our senatorial district. …We trust you [will] serve our CNMI well."

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

'Govt needs policy on typhoon OT'

In the wake of criticisms, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios says CNMI government must put in place a policy in authorizing and granting overtime pay in the future after any natural disaster.

This comes soon after House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), two vocal members of the opposition, accused the Torres administration of not paying for the overtime compensation of all frontline workers that helped in the recovery efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

Overtime pay is typically regular pay multiplied 2.5 times.

Citing a list obtained from the administration, Propst had scored the thousands of dollars in overtime paid Cabinet members, even as hundreds of frontline workers remain unpaid or are still awaiting payment.

Sablan had suggested that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres should not have authorized the overtime pay for Cabinet members who were not eligible to receive OT by law or by their own contracts.

Palacios said that he recently was in talks with the governor about putting in place a very specific policy on this issue.

"We should address it and have a systematic and equitable fair way of disbursing OT pay and authorizing OT pays during and after typhoons or other major disasters," he said.

Torres said that, as much as possible, his administration wants to pay everyone who worked during and after the typhoon in time, but he's asking for a little patience as the government tries to find the needed funds to cover those expenses, during this time of economic recovery.

"I want to pay it right away, but how can we do that if our revenues are down? Unlike what we had done in the past to pay in advance, what we're asking is for those employees to be more patient until we get more revenues to come in," said Torres.

"Our revenue is down by $30 million, there's nothing to hide—we saw that after Yutu when there's no tourists coming in and our government expenditures increased by 10 times more because recovery must happen and employees still got paid."

He added that the administration is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in coming up with some formula in getting the CNMI government's reimbursements. "Hopefully we could resolve it in the next couple of weeks."

Palacios said the administration is trying to resolve all issues in order to get all the workers paid.

Acting Finance secretary David Atalig, during his meeting with the House Ways and Means Committee last Tuesday, said the CNMI government first paid for the 2.5 overtime pay then submitted the documents to FEMA for reimbursement.

He said that some $8.8 million from the general fund were used by the government for the OT payments. "A large batch was obviously pre-printed in terms of checks, to show the expenditure to FEMA."

"We had some challenges with documentation, routing procedures, as well as the documents that were submitted to FEMA that were either rejected or [FEMA] requesting for more information and documents." Atalig said this is what they are trying to resolve. ***(Jon Perez)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 50th birthday to our lovely mother/ama Josephine S. Indalecio! May the Lord bless you on your special day and with many more to come. We love you! With love from Kim, Eric, and Izaiah Blaze.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Shawn N. Aderson, and Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty join 11 new U.S. citizens for a group photo during a naturalization ceremony yesterday.

11 new citizens sworn in

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

YaFan Li, who first arrived on Saipan in 1997, as a garment factory worker from China, now considers the CNMI and the U.S. mainland her home. That personal belief became a reality last week when she was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in a ceremony at the federal court last Wednesday.

Li was one of 11 persons who took their oath before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. The new citizens were originally from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh, South Korea, and Thailand.

U.S. Attorney for Districts of Guam and the NMI Shawn D. Anderson served as the guest speaker at the ceremony in conjunction with the Law Day celebration.

Li, who has an adult child, was naturalized through her marriage to her former husband. She currently works in sales at Joeten Garapan.

Couple Arthur Dela Cruz Santos and Perlita Tolentino Santos, both originally from the Philippines, are both happy to obtain their U.S. citizenship as they have three children born here—ages 14, 12, and 7.

Arthur Santos, who hails from Pampanga, has been working on Saipan for almost 20 years now. He came on the island in 1997 as a waiter. He is currently an F&B supervisor at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Perlita Santos, who is originally from Muntinlupa, first came to the island in 2002 as a budget officer at TanHoldings Corp. She got a special green card through her job at a previous employer. She is currently a comptroller at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

As guest speaker at Wednesday's ceremony, Anderson shared his personal perspective about naturalized citizens, coming from a family of immigrants.

Anderson said it was Manglona who asked him to stop by and give remarks at the naturalization ceremony, which also happens to occur during the celebration of Law Day.

Anderson said the theme of this year's Law Day is free speech, free press, and free society, which is very important in a democratic country.

The U.S. mainland recognizes May 1, 2019, as National Law Day.

The other new citizens are Hyunjoung Ahn, Sirirat Somket Castro, Jennalyn Betonio De Leon, Aiza Yco Garcia, April Degamo Manglona, Lilia Carillo Pangelinan, Rodrigo Manalo San Pedro, and MD Abdul Wahed.

Las Vegas Night rakes in $34K

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's edition of Las Vegas Night that was hosted by the Rotary Club of Saipan last month netted over $34,000, according to club president Greg Borja.

Borja noted that their signature fundraiser held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last March 30 got them about $17,000 each from table games and ticket sales, topping their recent years of holding the event.

All that money would go to the club's programs.

"We are looking at trying to put $20,000 on a playground that is accessible to children with disabilities and then we are looking at reestablishing our youth exchange programs with one of the [Rotary] Clubs in Japan," he said.

Part of the money would also go to the Rotary's dictionary program for third graders and other projects.

Compared to last year's, this year raised about $10,000 more.

"[This year was really great]. I believe last year we netted $24,000 and the year prior to that was roughly the same at $22,000 to $23,000," he said. "[$34,000] is a nice number to work with so we can support projects in our community."

In terms of raffle prizes, Borja said they have no plans to change any of the raffle prizes, which usually consist of five major grand prizes and several other smaller door prizes.

The annual jackpot at the Las Vegas Night is always a choice between a vehicle and a substantial amount while the other grand prizes are cash.

"We would probably stick with the [same things]. The choice for a vehicle is really big that folks would want and we solicit a lot of door prizes from all over the island, so we can talk about that in the future with our board members," he said.

Teacher Appreciation Week
Teachers are our treasures!
Show your educator ID at McDonald's
and receive one small coffee
with our compliments from May 6-10, 2019
5:30am to 10:00am (Garapan Branch) /
6:30am to 10:00am (Middle Road Store)
*No purchase necessary
*Limit 1 small coffee per person per visit
McCafé
McDonald's Saipan
STORE HOURS:
Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7]
Garapan Express 233-8577
Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577
Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

Fabian Indalecio: Steward of the past

BEA CABRERA

Fabian Indalecio at his personal museum of World War II relics from the islands of Saipan and Titian.

Fabian Indalecio's friend, Vladislav Melnik, gives the war relics he finds to Indalecio to add to his collection and for safekeeping.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Going out into the fields of Saipan and Tinian to hunt for relics of World War II is not just a hobby but a way of life for Fabian Indalecio.

"My passion for history comes natural for me and I feel like I was born with it," he said.

That passion for history and sharing them has resulted in Indalecio amassing thousands of World War II relics—and each one tells a story of pre-war, during the war, and post-war times.

He brought that passion with him when he lived in the U.S. mainland, collecting old and vintage stuff like stamps, coins, etc. by combing through flea markets for a rare find.

"When I came back to Saipan in 1992, I continued the passion but, this time, no more flea markets for me," he said.

He collects not just anything, though. Indalecio is very specific, his collection consisting mostly of U.S. and Japanese relics from World War II.

"If these things were not saved, it will just disintegrate, with the exception of the bottles and glass. …Right now, everything is just getting to a point that many relics are missing and lost because many lands are being taken over, bulldozed, and cleared. That makes it hard to find and recover war relics," he added.

His collection is meticulously displayed in a house in San Antonio, which he opens to anyone who is interested to know more about the Battle for Saipan.

"It's not an official museum but a place for my personal collection. …I open it up to anybody."

The more people come to see the relics, the happier he is, such that he forgets all the time, effort, and hard work he has already put into looking and digging up these artifacts.

"I really love history and I realized that sharing with everyone—especially with the younger generation and war veterans that come to Saipan what I find in the caves, jungle, and mountain trails—is where true joy really comes from," he said.

The diversity of his collection is truly wide-ranging. They are arranged and identified on which island the relics came from. From weapons, gear, and airplane parts, to personal hygiene items and belongings that were sentimental to the owner. "We found a photo of a woman intact in a clear casing with her name written at the bottom of the photo…we found combs, shaving paraphernalia, medicine bottles, eyeglasses, etc. that just [teaches] you that these soldiers were also ordinary people like us," he said.

"Sometimes, when I think about what these people went through…I wish that we could connect to them so that that they can either have the item back or at least know that they're appreciated and respected," he added.

See FABIAN on Next Page

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE
CRM COMMERCIAL WATERSPORTS PERMIT RENEWAL

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) HEREBY GIVES NOTICE TO ALL COMMERCIAL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ON SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA THAT THE DEADLINE TO RENEW YOUR CRM COMMERCIAL WATERSPORTS PERMIT IS ON **MAY 30, 2019**.

ALL ACTIVE COMMERCIAL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A CRM PERMIT APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE.

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR OFFICE AT THE:

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ)
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM)
PERMITTING SECTION
GUALO RAI CENTER, SUITE 303
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, LOWER GUALO RAI

OR

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.dcrm.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Honolulu District

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Honolulu District Public Affairs:
808-835-4004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hosting Public Meeting for Talofofo Former Hospital Dump Site Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii (May 3, 2019) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will convene a public meeting to engage public participation regarding the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001) located at Talofofo, Saipan.

A presentation will be shown to provide an overview of the investigation process and the development of the study for the project site.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the project.

Meeting Date: Friday, May 10, 2019
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.
American Memorial Park - Visitors Center Theater, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

You may also submit written comments regarding the project to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Honolulu Engineer District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E (Lori Wong)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
or
Fax: 808-835-4129.
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

BEA CABRERA

Among the thousands of relics that Fabian Indalecio has in his collection, dog tags are what he considers his most prized possessions.

FABIAN

From Page 8

Among the thousands of relics in his collection, his most prized possessions are the name tags or dog tags of the soldiers. "We found the dog tag of Donald A. Deeds and I was able to get in touch with him. We communicated through letters and Facebook and he was a gentleman and very shy," he said.

"I was trying to return it to him but the son who I also communicated with said it is okay and that I should take care of it. Deeds passed away a couple of years ago when he was 92 years old and I am glad before he died that we were able to thank him for all the things that he has done for our islands," Indalecio said.

Whenever he goes out to the jungle, he does it with intention. "I do my research, read maps to determine sites and the same process after I retrieve relics. There is also a responsibility involved when you retrieve them; otherwise those relics would be meaningless," he said.

"As for safety, especially when I find explosives, I assess the condition and report it to the Department of Public Safety. When somebody brings [World War II explosives] to me, I redirect them to DPS as they clean those, take it to Marpi, and have the Navy ordnance come over here and get rid of the explosives," he added.

Indalecio's friend, Vladislav Melnik, is a fan of his collection. "His collection is amazing and I'm very happy to meet this guy as we share this passion. As a former Army guy, we understand each other and whenever I retrieve relics from my hikes I give them to Fabian to add to his collection," he said.

"I'm glad the things that I find has somewhere meaningful to go to," he added.

Indalecio said these relics in his personal museum is like a big family. "It's hard to kind of break it apart, like bring some here and there. I hate to sound greedy but if someone took some of them and separated it from the pack, then it is as if it was separated from [its] family."

"Not everything here is found by me. Some relics come from people who donated and entrusted them to me for safekeeping. I also solicit and pay for them but when it reaches this place, its value becomes zero because everything in this museum is not for sale," he added.

Now 58 years old, Indalecio has been retrieving and collecting war relics half of his life. "I have slowed down but I am not planning to stop as the passion of collecting will forever remain in me. …Peter Camacho Muña, who is like my own son, will carry on the legacy of protecting these pieces. He is now serving in the U.S. Army and he is very knowledgeable, respectful, and passionate about history and he is a better tour guide than I am."

"These relics are the legacies of the people that died for our islands. For my part, I want my legacy to be one of the people that protected their memories because they are… never forgotten," he added.

"There are lot of people who died for this island and for the Marianas. …By safeguarding these relics, it is my way of paying my respect to [them]."

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota
TASTE OF THE MARIANAS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
COMPETITION
BBQ Whole Chicken Cook-Off
MAY 11
1ST PLACE
1 night stay and dinner buffet for 2 at Hyatt Regency Saipan and a $250 gift certificate from Chairman M restaurant
2ND PLACE
Sunday brunch for two at Giovanni's at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Sunday brunch for two at World Café at Fiesta Resort & Spa, and a $150 gift certificate from Chairman M restaurant
3RD PLACE
Cultural dinner show for two at Fiesta Resort & Spa and a $100 gift certificate to Chairman M restaurant.
Maximum of 10 Participants
First Come, First Serve
Cooking starts at 5:30 PM
Judging will take place at 7:00Pm
Competition is held at the Back Stage Competition Area
MAY 18
J'S FRIED RICE EATING CONTEST
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MAY 25, 2019
5:30 PM - 11:00 PM
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 88

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Why do we pick the politicians we pick? Here's what's guiding us

Lately, as we consider who we think is the best choice to serve in public office, we find ourselves wondering what is most important for the country, the state and the cities we love. And as we consider this important question, we find ourselves weighing the character and tone of the people running for office as much as the policies they would effect.

Good policy is crucial to effective governance, and we make no mistake about that. Our preference is for limited but efficient bureaucracies that respect individual liberty and recognize that government exists to serve the people and not to be served by them.

More and more, however, we find ourselves worried about a nation that is dividing itself so deeply that people cannot stand the company of those with whom they disagree. The sense of good versus evil has entrenched itself in daily political discourse.

To our eye, this is a problem that begins with our political leaders. And it is a problem that, left unchecked, will grow malignantly into a threat to the future of the republic.

A house divided against itself cannot stand, as Lincoln reminded us. And if we do not find ways to mend our divisions, we will fail. And that failure will be catastrophic for human freedom.

We need leaders who have the depth of character and the strength of spirit to reach beyond the safe borders of their own parties, and beyond their predispositions and policy prejudices. We need leaders who are willing to tell hard truths to their own side and to listen honestly to the other. We need leaders who are willing to diminish the good versus evil trope instead of capitalizing on it.

Only an honest person can do that. Only a person with a spirit of strength and conciliation can do that.

It's so easy to spit fire and preach to the choir. Turn on your choice of cable news or flip open social media to get a dose of that cheap act.

It's so much harder to be willing to say that you will meet the other person somewhere in the middle. It's so much harder to tell your own side that the whole loaf isn't on the table.

We want politicians who are willing to do that. And when we make our choices, we are making them with that in mind. So we hope you vote, that you make your voice heard. When more voters turn out, when more Americans cast their ballots, the more incentive there is for our elected officials to serve the needs of the whole. Saturday is Election Day. Will your voice be heard?

(c)2019 *The Dallas Morning News*

The US is taking in fewer refugees than ever, and it's our loss

By BECCA HELLER
Los Angeles Times

Becca Heller is co-founder and executive director of the International Refugee Assistance Project.

In November of 2016, a Darfuri man named Ameen, his wife, Aarya, and their daughter were referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for resettlement to the United States. That welcome news came after more than a decade of persecution and hardship for the family, first in Sudan, where the Janjaweed militia were systematically killing Darfuris, and later in Jordan, where they fled.

In the past, such a referral generally meant that a refugee could hope to be resettled fairly quickly. But Ameen and his family are still waiting in Jordan as a result of a marked shift in U.S. refugee policy.

In recent weeks, a lot has been written about President Donald Trump's xenophobic attacks on people seeking asylum at U.S. borders. But we should remember that the administration has also gutted and radically reshaped the other primary way people fleeing persecution come to the United States: the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Part of the shift in how refugees are being handled can be seen in the numbers. In the last fiscal year of Barack Obama's presidency, the United States took in about 85,000 refugees. In fiscal year 2018, the first full year of Trump's presidency, the number dropped to about 22,500. For the current fiscal year, which ends in October, the administration has set a ceiling of 30,000 refugee admissions, but we are not on track to hit even that paltry number. Halfway through the year, we have admitted just over 12,000 refugees.

And it is not just the numbers that have changed. Since Trump took office, a far smaller percentage of the refugees admitted to the United States are Muslim—a significant shift, since many of the world's most desperate refugees today are Muslim. That said, because admissions are down so sharply, the overall number of resettled Christian refugees is also down.

The changes are rooted in Trump's broader policies targeting certain countries for much stricter visa and refugee policies. This process began with an executive order Trump issued just a week after taking office in January 2017. In addition to banning visitors from seven predominantly Muslim countries, the order suspended all refugee resettlement for 120 days.

Today, after many court challenges and some changes to the order, the so-called Muslim ban is now the law of the land, and millions of people are being prevented from entering the U.S. under its terms.

In October 2017, the administration struck another blow to refugees, barring admissions from 11 designated countries (most of them predominantly Muslim), saying it was a temporary move to "study" the situation. About 44 percent of U.S. refugee admissions in fiscal year 2016 came from the countries targeted by that action, which included Somalia, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Yemen.

Following a lawsuit brought by several organizations, including my organization, the International Refugee Assistance Project, a judge largely blocked this order, and the injunction was upheld by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

And yet, out of the 12,000 refugees admitted so far this fiscal year, only 602, a mere 5 percent, have been admitted from the countries the administration sought to block. The total number of refugees admitted from Sudan is 10 times lower than in past years. And only a single refugee has been admitted from Yemen, which the U.N. has said has "the world's worst humanitarian crisis."

Trump's efforts stem from a narrative that paints refugees, at best, as foreigners stealing jobs and draining government resources and, at worst, as criminals and terrorists. The administration's stance, however, ignores overwhelming empirical evidence, including from its own study, that refugees are a huge net benefit to the U.S. economy.

To counter the administration's narrative, some on the left are taking a similarly flawed approach, portraying refugees as downtrodden victims plagued by poverty and war in desperate need of charity. This view helps fuel the right's fears that refugees are coming solely to take from our society and implies they don't have much to give.

In actuality, refugees are a self-selecting group of some of the most tenacious, creative, democracy-loving people in the world. Far from being likely recruits for terrorists, they have stood up to terrorism. They have been through hell, survived and found a way out with their families.

The United States values ingenuity and entrepreneurship, traits essential to escaping from Islamic State-occupied Mosul, making the treacherous journey across another country's border, and living to tell the story. Similarly, you would be hard-pressed

See US on Next Page

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Let's be honest

By TINA SABLAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author delivered the following statement at the House of Representatives session on April 29, 2019.

I've spent these past weeks pondering a single question about the state of our financial affairs: How did we get here?

Over the weekend I took some time to reread the Governor's State of the Commonwealth address from August 2018. The one where he says "progress" 24 times.

It's the speech where he describes "the fastest economic growth in the country," how our GDP surpassed the $1 billion mark, and how we reduced our deficit by more than half. The one where he even claims that the central government had settled its arrears with CUC.

In August 2018 he said, "Today's economy is strong."

Those words ring hollow today.

We came to find out, just a few months after that speech—conveniently, after the election—that we actually ended the fiscal year with a $25 million deficit.

So what was all that "progress, progress, progress" about? Smoke and mirrors? Delusion? Lies?

One thing Gov. Torres said that was true, was that "the state of our commonwealth today will be measured by those who follow us. Our children will live with the outcomes of our decisions today."

Unfortunately, I can't say that I'm proud of what we are contemplating today—borrowing from our children, from their inheritance, because we don't have the money to pay our obligations today.

So if we can't be proud, let's at least be honest.

Let's be honest with our people and acknowledge that we are in this situation today because of gross financial mismanagement.

Let's be honest and admit that the governor should not have authorized 2.5 overtime for Cabinet members who were not eligible by law or their own contracts.

Let's be honest and admit that we should not have given massive pay increases for elected officials and Cabinet members last year.

That maybe, instead of issuing millions in retirement "bonuses," we should have used that money to pay down our outstanding, humongous obligations to the retirement settlement fund, so that we don't have to borrow from MPLT to do exactly that today.

That maybe, all along, back when the casino was paying taxes in the tens of millions, we didn't have to spend absolutely every single penny and then some. We should have been setting aside some money for a rainy day. A day like today—when the casino has paid a measly $41,000 in gross revenue taxes since the beginning of this fiscal year.

Let's be honest and say that this casino is not living up to its overblown promises. That it's drowning in bad debt that far exceeds its profits. That it's not paying its taxes, not paying its vendors, not meeting deadlines or permit conditions, not hiring more U.S. workers and, in fact, has been laying off employees by the hundreds.

IPI doesn't seem to have the money to finish one project in Garapan—yet we still, somehow, have managed to give them another prime piece of public property in Marpi.

And here we are, today, borrowing from our public lands trust. We don't have the cash to pay typhoon overtime to deserving front-line employees, in part because this administration prioritized Cabinet members who shouldn't have gotten overtime in the first place. We don't have the cash to pay vendors. We don't have the cash for within-grade increases for civil service employees. We barely have the cash for current payroll, including all the huge salary increases that were given to top officials last year.

The bill on calendar today, 21-44, says we're not borrowing for operations because that would be unconstitutional. But let's be honest and say that we are borrowing to pay bond obligations and the settlement fund so that we can free up some cash for operations.

By TINA SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tina Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives in the 21st Legislature.

The governor is quoted in today's papers saying he has nothing to hide—revenues are down by $30 million he says, and government expenditures have quadrupled, he says.

But he doesn't get off so easily, just saying that. He has hidden plenty. There were no timely disclosures last year. We don't even believe the disclosures we're getting now. We still don't know if the initial across-the-board cut was supposed to be 5 percent per month or 15 percent per quarter. But we do know the cuts to operations across this government have been much greater than either figure. And we suspect the shortfall for this fiscal year may be much greater than the $30 million the governor has most recently announced.

How did we get here? How did we go from last year's boasts about progress, prosperity, and record-breaking budgets, to deficits, shortfalls, and austerity measures just a few months later? We cannot blame everything on the typhoons. Let's be honest about that.

I think it's time, Mr. Speaker and members, to call in the governor. Call in the Finance secretary and former Finance secretary Larissa Larson. Subpoena them if we have to. How did we get here? And just as importantly, where do we go from here? Let's do some real oversight, and ask the hard questions that demand answers.

The downturn in the CNMI economy: A continuing uncertainty

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It is so embarrassing to read, week after week, story after story, about the decline (once again) in the economy of the CNMI. Every four years, we elect to public office individuals whom we are led to believe have the qualification, determination and vision to responsibly and competently lead the Commonwealth. All individuals elected to public office are expected to know that they have a solemn obligation to carry out their duties and responsibilities, to the best of their ability and in accordance with our constitution and laws.

Sadly, every four years, we continue to elect to public office a number of individuals who do not have the qualification to hold public office. We have found out over the years that many of our elected leaders put their self-interest first and the public interest last. This continuing state of affair requires us to ask the question: When are we going to start electing to public office only those candidates whose primary purpose in seeking public office is to serve the *best interest of all the people of the Commonwealth*?

Because CNMI voters have failed to elect responsible and competent leaders for so many years now, the CNMI government continues to "go in circle" or, at times, regress backwards. Failure after failure in self-governance continue to take place year after year. Our exercise at self-government continue to be mediocre, lackluster, and wanting. To this day, we continue to experience economic setbacks after economic setbacks. As a result, the quality of life for so many of our residents continue to get worse, many of whom have great difficulty trying to make ends meet, week after week. They live from paycheck to paycheck.

Our ability to govern ourselves, especially over the past 20 years has been quite dismal. After years of self-government, our political leaders still carry on as if we are a Third World country. Corruption, nepotism and cronyism have been the way we practice self-government. CNMI procurement regulations are apparently no longer adhered to. Issue after issue continue to arise year after year, yet most of these issues have remained unresolved.

Many of the issues affecting the CNMI relate to our unstable economy, our unstable laws, and our substandard health system. Other issues have to do with the poor image we convey to good-faith investors and visitor to our islands. Still others relate to the public perception that our Public Safety Department does not have the ability to solve many of our major crimes. For example, literally all of the missing persons who inexplicably "disappeared" from our midst have remained unsolved for years now.

One of the biggest issues we have, as far as I see it, is the glaring failure of our leaders to lead effectively and independently. They continue to be led by private interest groups and self-interested individuals. We see this happening through the actions they take and the decisions they make. Many of their decisions and actions are, as we know, contrary to the public interest. Still we remain silent, if not acquiescent.

One of the biggest irony with our failure at self-governance is the fact that the people of the CNMI (yes, us) have been aware of the deficiencies and failures of our elected leaders, for a long time now. Many of us (either through fear or apathy) remain silent and dare not criticize our leaders. Every four years, we close our eyes and vote (once again) for the same individuals whom we already know are either not qualified to hold public office; do not have the background or experience to govern; or, worse, do not have the best interest of the people at heart. Yes, we the voters of the Commonwealth, for some strange reason, continue to allow the dismal state of affairs that the CNMI has been in for a long time now. Why?

The first step that we need to take in order for the CNMI to begin making real progress is to truthfully answer the following fundamental question: *Why is the CNMI still in the same mess that we have been in since we began to govern ourselves in 1978? Yes, why?*

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Attention to Filipino overseas voters

As of 1 May 2019, all ballots have been mailed out to registered Filipino voters in the United States.

This was made possible by the dedication and team work of the embassy and the consulates general, and the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Commission on Elections. Issues that initially posed a delay in the mailing of the ballots were finally resolved, and overseas voting, through postal mode, is now underway.

The embassy and consulates general have started to receive accomplished ballots and have been feeding them to the vote-counting machines in accordance with election rules and procedures. Voters who have not yet received their ballots, especially those who changed their addresses, are advised to check if their ballot kits are among those returned to the embassy or consulate of registration.

The embassy and consulates general are open daily, including weekends and holidays, for the purposes of the May 2019 elections. All of us are committed to ensuring that our elections are free, fair, and credible.

We urge registered overseas Filipino voters to exercise their right to vote and make their vote count. It is our right and duty as Filipino citizens. Let us all take part in shaping the future of our nation.

Jose Manuel G. Romualdez
Philippine Ambassador to the United States
Washington D.C.

US

From Page 10

to find someone with more appreciation for democracy than a former political prisoner of Syria's Assad regime.

Ameen, Aarya and their young baby, the Darfuri refugees whose resettlement is in limbo, would do well here in the United States. Ameen is a farmer by trade, and his skills would be useful in our agricultural sector, which is plagued by labor shortages. Aarya has studied to become a doctor, and their baby daughter is the embodiment of endless possibility.

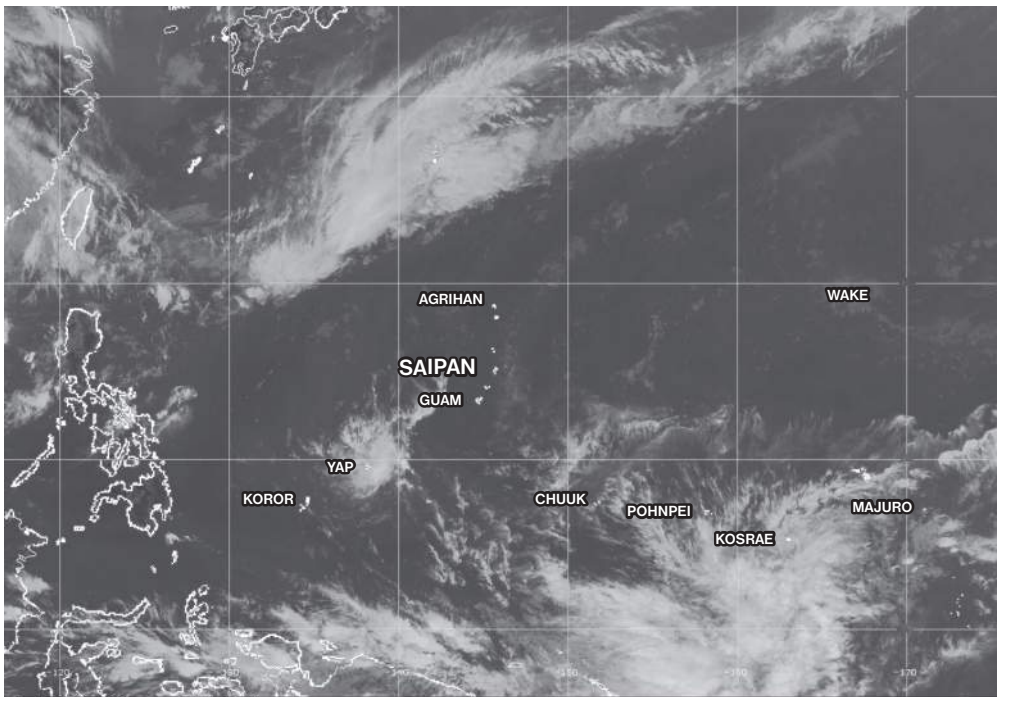
We would be lucky to have them as neighbors.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:57 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Early morning satellite and radar imagery show only a few clouds and isolated showers over and to the east of the Marianas. Models do show patches of showers passing across the Marianas during the forecast period but shower coverage will remain isolated at best.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
New York	Mostly Sunny	68° / 53°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	59° / 43°
Busan	Cloudy	66° / 55°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Salem	Sunny	87° / 61°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 50°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 48°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	77° / 59°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.88
7:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
2:55 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.20
9:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:46 AM	7:48 PM	-
Tuesday	7:33 AM	8:45 PM	-
Wednesday	8:25 AM	9:43 PM	-
Thursday	9:21 AM	10:42 PM	-
Friday	10:20 AM	11:38 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 4, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 5, 6
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

NMI, Guam each eligible for $150K to improve drinking water

HAGATNA—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced the availability of nearly $87 million in grant funding to assist states, tribes, and territories with improving drinking water. The CNMI and Guam are eligible to receive $150,000 each.

"EPA is committed to ensuring all Americans, regardless of their zip code, have access to safe and clean drinking water," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "With these grants, EPA is fulfilling its core mission of providing states, tribes, and territories with the resources needed to protect children from lead exposure and other contaminants and ensure all American families have safe drinking water."

States, tribes, and territories are eligible to receive funding from two new EPA drinking water grant programs established by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act:

■ Under EPA's new "Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care" grant program, EPA will award $43.7 million in grants to fund testing for lead in drinking water at schools and child care programs. Testing results carried out using grant funds must be made publicly available.

■ Under EPA's new "Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities" grant program, EPA will award $42.8 million in grants to support underserved communities with bringing public drinking water systems into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Funding can also be used for conducting household water quality testing, including testing for unregulated contaminants.

Under the Trump Administration, EPA has taken actions to modernize aging water infrastructure and reduce exposure to contaminants in drinking water:

» EPA: $87M available nationwide for schools and small communities

■ In 2018 the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds committed $9.6 billion in drinking water and clean water infrastructure loans and refinancing and disbursed $8.8 billion for drinking water and clean water infrastructure.

Over the past year, EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program has issued eight loans totaling over $2 billion in WIFIA credit assistance to help finance over $4 billion for water infrastructure projects.

■ EPA is undertaking the first major overhaul of the Lead and Copper Rule since 1991. EPA anticipates releasing the proposed rule in summer 2019.

State, tribal, and territorial grant allotments for the two grant programs are available on EPA's website. As a next step, program participants will be asked to submit workplans to EPA outlining their proposed project(s) for approval and funding. EPA will announce funding details for WIIN's third newly-created grant program dedicated to reducing lead in drinking water systems in summer 2019.

For more information, visit: https://www.epa.gov/safewater/grants. ***(PR)***

'Strict gun laws key to near lack of violent crimes in NMI'

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Shawn N. Anderson attributes the relative lack of violent crimes or gun-related crimes in the Commonwealth to its strict gun laws.

Anderson told reporters Wednesday that the national priorities in investigating criminal cases are narcotics trafficking and violent crimes but there's not much of violent crimes or gun crimes on the island "because the laws in the CNMI, the gun laws, are so strict."

Instead, in the CNMI, the high priority are prosecuting criminal immigration, public corruption, and white-collar crimes.

"The citizens if they see something not right, they should report to the police or to the [Drug Enforcement Administration]," Anderson said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Consumers should not call back unknown late-night callers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federal Communications Commission is alerting consumers to reported waves of "One Ring" or "Wangiri" scam robocalls targeting specific area codes in bursts, often calling multiple times in the middle of the night. These calls are likely trying to prompt consumers to call the number back, often resulting in per minute toll charges similar to a 900 number. Consumers should not call these numbers back.

Recent reports indicate these calls are using the "222" country code of the West African nation of Mauritania. News reports have indicated widespread overnight calling in New York State and Arizona.

Generally, the One Ring scam takes place when a robocaller calls a number and hangs up after a ring or two. They may call repeatedly, hoping the consumer calls back and runs up a toll that is largely paid to the scammer.

Consumer Tips:

■ Do not call back numbers you do not recognize, especially those appearing to originate overseas.

■ File a complaint with the FCC if you received these calls: www.fcc.gov/complaints.

■ If you never make international calls, consider talking to your phone company about blocking outbound international calls to prevent accidental toll calls.

■ Check your phone bill for charges you don't recognize.

Advances in technology allow massive amounts of calls to be made cheaply and easily. In addition, spoofing tools make it easy for scammers to mask their identity. The FCC is working to combat scam calls with enforcement actions, a strong push for caller ID authentication, and support for call blocking tools. Another key tool is consumer education like this alert and the FCC's One Ring scam consumer guide: https://t.co/pROJ0ldMXv. ***(PR)***

IT&E updates Lifeline application process

Starting May 8, IT&E consumers signing up for a Lifeline plan or renewing their Lifeline plan must first register online with National Verifier at www.checklifeline.org/lifeline. Existing subscribers will not have to do anything until it is time to renew.

Lifeline is a national program under the Federal Communications Commission that makes internet, mobile phone, and home phone services more accessible for eligible families and individuals. Eligibility for Lifeline is based on household income level or participation in federal assistance programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Medicaid.

The change is in line with updates from the Universal Service Administrative Company, which administers Lifeline and operates National Verifier.

The new steps to apply for Lifeline are:

1. Go to www.checklifeline.org/lifeline and sign up for an account.

2. Upload required documents to prove eligibility. Documents required might include proof of identity,

proof of residential address, household worksheet, proof of emancipated minor, proof of program/income, or proof of life. IT&E will no longer be accepting these documents.

3. Once eligibility is confirmed by email or mail, visit IT&E to sign up for a Lifeline Mobile or Bundle plan.

Under the Lifeline program, IT&E offers a Mobile Lifeline plan that includes unlimited local talk and text and 3 GB of 4G LTE data for $20.75 a month and a Bundle Lifeline Plan that includes internet and home phone for $62 a month.

IT&E's Lifeline plans help subscribers stay connected and further the FCC's goals to bridge the digital divide. ***(IT&E)***

Bill to secure Tinian payroll now law

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives bill to help pay the salaries of Tinian municipal employees is now law after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed House Bill 21-37 last April 29.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Antonio SN Borja (R-Saipan), is now Public Law 21-1 and uses $1.2 million special casino gross revenue tax that was intended for Tinian.

P.L. 21-1 allocates $1.09 million for personnel and operations, and public programs for the Tinian municipal government, the Tinian Municipal Treasury employees, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission personnel and operations, and the Tinian Mayor's Office.

An additional $60,000 will be used to buy one van for the Office of Aging under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Tinian, while $25,000 each will be used to buy vehicles for the Department of Public Works-Tinian's Building Safety Division and the Department of Finance-Tinian.

In a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan said: "We really need that money for our employees in the municipality. The signing is very timely since our payroll will only last up to May 10. Without the bill being signed into law, it would have [meant] unpaid salaries, furloughs, and cut hours. Now that we have funding, it is welcome news to us."

He added that he is aware of the concerns raised by minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) when Borja's bill was being deliberated on the floor in the House.

"The money will help make sure the employees will get paid…and other obligations [are] covered. The [money] was the share for Tinian from the CGRT. We're re-obligating the money. We're taking away money from a project that was supposed to be ongoing," said Aldan, referring to paving of the Marpo Heights. "The project will push through and we're not going to abandon it."

He said that they are still on target for the Marpo Heights project. "There's $2 million… in capital improvement project [funds], which funds road, water, water, and other infrastructure projects. We're not abandoning the project and it will push through."

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE HANMI

Traders Insurance donates a $2,500 hole-in-one prize for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament that is scheduled for May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. It presented the donation to HANMI officials at the Traders Insurance office in Chalan Kanoa on April 29, 2019. From left, tournament committee member Socorro Huliganga, Traders Insurance underwriter Ferdinand S. Javillonar, tournament committee chair Steve Balakrishna, HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh; Traders Insurance underwriter Ma. Krizia D. Mendoza, president Pablo B. Mendoza, accountant Chona O. Laguador, insurance underwriter Jenny G. Ariar, and manager Ernest S. Licop; tournament committee member Rommel Bartolo; Traders Insurance secretary/treasurer Fidel S. Fernandez, and tournament committee member Das Krishnan.

HANMI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Bridge Capital LLC vice president and chief litigation officer Jody Jordahl, center, presents a $500 donation for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament to be held on May 11, 2019. The donation, made on April 26, 2019, at the Bridge Capital office in Garapan, was received by tournament committee member Das Krishnan, left, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan HR manager Pina Magofna. HANMI

Villanueva wins contest at Saturday's Taste kickoff

Marianas Visitors Authority staff, guests, and dignitaries cut the ribbon to kick off the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

PHOTOS BY REICA RAMIREZ

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sunrise Band and Refaluwasch Warriors perform the U.S. and CNMI national anthems at the opening ceremony for the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

The 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden kicked off last Saturday at American Memorial Park with a series of entertainment at the main stage, 20 food vendors, three drinks vendors, and a *kadun pika* cooking competition at the secondary stage.

The opening night featured many entertainment groups such as the Tasi and the Aliis and traditional performances from the Korean Cultural Center.

Marianas Visitors Authority hosted the *Kadun Pika* Contest (spicy chicken), which was sponsored by Ladder Beach Restaurant. The contestants were judged on the tenderness of the chicken, the level of spice, the presentation of the food, and the overall taste.

The winner of the *Kadun Pika* Contest was Shayne Villanueva, with his concoction he called "Roil Soil Sauce." He used ingredients from the Saturday farmers' market, the Sabalu Market, and Saipan Brewing Co.'s *pika* beer.

Villanueva's prize for his victory was a one-night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan, a dinner buffet for two at Kili Cafe, a $250 gift certificate at Chairman M. restaurant, and a $50 gift certificate to Ladder Beach Restaurant.

Second place went to Freddy Salavaria and Francis, also known as "Da Kompires." Third place went to "Guns 'n Hoses," a team of police and firefighters working to serve the public.

The other five contestants were Andrew Songsong, Jesse Mesa, "Naughty Native," and "Barola Team."

The festival will be open every Saturday throughout the month of May from 6pm to 10pm.

The festival will also feature the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Junior Chefs Competition on May 25, sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

Taste of the Marianas is a signature event of the MVA and is one of the largest celebrations in the Marianas. The festival features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors and non- stop live entertainment.

D'Elegance Cafe's booth at the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park during the start of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

Tourists check out at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's booth at the American Memorial Park during the start of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

The food prepared at the Kadun Pika Contest are displayed at the start of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

"Guns 'n Hoses" wins third place in the Kadun Pika Contest at the start of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday at the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas.

"Da Kompires" wins second place in the Kadun Pika Contest at the start of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

Shayne Villanueva's concoction, which he called "Roil Soil Sauce," is the winner of the 2019 Kadun Pika Contest at the start of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday.

Villanueva wins contest at Saturday's Taste kickoff

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2019 Marianas March Against Cancer

PHOTOS By ERWIN ENCINARES

Marianas March Against Cancer committee members Bobby Cruz and Carline Sablan address the crowd before starting the event last Friday afternoon.

The 2019 Marianas March Against Cancer committee pose for a photo Saturday morning.

Inspirational speaker Israel De Leon talks about his family's battle with cancer during the 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field last Friday afternoon.

The 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field started with all teams doing their first lap as the sun sets last Friday.

A cancer survivor hugs an attendee during the 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field.

All teams do one last lap to conclude the 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field Saturday morning.

Committee members of the 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field do one lap counter-clockwise to greet the teams during their final lap.

Cancer survivors were honored one by one during the 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field Friday afternoon.

All teams do one last lap to conclude the 2019 Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Airport Field Saturday morning.

63rd Tinian San Jose Fiesta

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Customers line up in one of the food booths at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater.

Friends of San Jose Church officers and members manage the Garden of Eden, which serves drinks at the fiesta ground, with sales to be donated for the rebuilding of the San Jose Church.

A father and son try one of the games during the fiesta celebration.

A volunteer works on the fire of a makeshift pit for the roasted cow that was served to guests during the fiesta celebration.

Two visitors check handcrafted necklaces and bracelets.

A young vendor sells flashing swords and other toys.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan addresses the crowd at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater, as officials from the U.S. Department of Defense listen.

Members of the Taotao Taga Dance, Co./Guma Simiyan Manainata/Famaguon Taga-Culture perform the "bailan pailitu" or stick dance.

Members of the Taotao Taga Dance, Co./Guma Simiyan Manainata/Famaguon Taga-Culture perform a dance honoring the islands' ancestors and seeking their blessings at the opening of the 63rd Tinian San Jose Fiesta Celebration last Friday night at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater.

First lady Diann Torres, fourth left, reigning Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, fifth left, join the contestants of the 2019 Miss Marianas crown for a group photo before the candidates are introduced to Tinian residents last Saturday.

Business

Hiring surge lifts economy

NEW YORK (AP)—The lowest unemployment rate in a half century. More than 260,000 new jobs. And higher hourly wages.

"I'll be running on the economy," President Donald Trump declared on Friday. And why wouldn't he?

The day's new round of sunny employment figures offered fresh evidence of a strong national economy—and a big political advantage for Trump just as the 2020 presidential campaign begins to intensify. Stocks are at or near record levels , too, as the president often notes.

Democrats pointed to regional disparities in the new government report. And overall income inequality hasn't narrowed.

But the Democrats who are fighting to deny the Republican president a second term are beginning to acknowledge the weight of their challenge: Since World War II, no incumbent president has ever lost reelection in a growing economy.

Even Trump's critics are forced to admit the state of the economy could help him at the ballot box.

"Relative to all the other terrible aspects of Trump's record, the economy is more of an asset to him," said Geoff Garin, a veteran pollster whose clients include Priorities USA, the most powerful super PAC in Democratic politics.

Indeed, it was a day of celebration for Trump and his allies, who have been well aware of recent warnings that the economy might slow this year.

The president's chief economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said the United States has entered "a very strong and durable prosperity cycle." He gave all the credit to his boss: "He is president of the whole economy."

By most measures, the U.S. economy is in solid shape. It is expanding at a roughly 3% pace, businesses are posting more jobs than there are unemployed workers and wage growth, long the economy's weak spot, has picked up.

All these trends are helping lift a broader swath of the population than in the first five years or so after the Great Recession.

Low-income workers are actually seeing healthy wage gains—larger than everyone else's. In March, the poorest one-quarter of workers were earning 4.4% more than a year earlier, according to data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The richest one-quarter were up 3%.

Lower-income workers had started to outpace their higher-paid counterparts in 2015, so it's not a Trump phenomenon. And part of the increase has occurred because of minimum wage hikes by more than two-dozen states.

The news isn't good for everyone.

Workers in metro areas are still getting larger pay increases than those in smaller towns or rural areas, according to the Atlanta Fed's data. In fact, that gap that has widened since Trump was elected.

And overall income inequality hasn't narrowed. The richest 5 percent of Americans earned 3.4 times a median worker's pay in 2018, according to the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute. That's up from 3.3 times as much in 2016.

In Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in a region Trump carried three years ago, county archivist Barbara Bartos said the president's policies have helped a lot of people although she's seen little economic benefit personally.

"I think he should get credit where credit is due," said Bartos, a 69-year-old registered Democrat who backed Hillary Clinton. "And I think that he helped a lot of people but left a lot of people out."

Three hundred miles to the west in Cleveland, another former Clinton supporter, 42-year-old IT manager Jessica Wieber, said she feels "pretty good" about her economic situation.

"I think he's had a big impact," she said of Trump's effect on the economy, adding that tax breaks given to companies and corporations have allowed them to hire more workers.

Berkshire Hathaway investors worry about life after Buffett

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Tens of thousands of Berkshire Hathaway shareholders return to Omaha every year to learn from Warren Buffett and celebrate the company he built through acquisitions and investments.

But with the 88-year-old Buffett and 95-year-old Charlie Munger leading the company, it's hard for shareholders not to wonder how much longer the revered investors will be in place. And the fact that Berkshire is holding more than $114 billion in cash and short-term investments raises questions about what Buffett might buy next.

Shareholder Stephen Teenois, 30, made his first trip to this year's meeting on Saturday after owning the stock for several years because he wanted to experience the event where Buffett and Munger spend hours answering questions.

"I just want to soak in everything I can and learn from him," said Teenois, who is from Houston.

Buffett has said that Berkshire has a succession plan in place for whenever it is needed. Neither Buffett nor Munger has any plans to retire. Two longtime executives, Ajit Jain and Greg Abel, have been promoted to vice chairmen to help oversee Berkshire's businesses. One of them will likely eventually be Berkshire's next CEO.

Buffett said Saturday that both Abel and Jain have done a great job since they were promoted into the new roles in early 2018, and both earned about $18 million last year. Jain oversees the conglomerate's insurance businesses while Abel oversees non-insurance business operations.

"You could not have two better operating managers than Greg and Ajit," Buffett said.

Jim Weber, CEO of Berkshire company Brooks Running, said the transition from reporting directly to Buffett to reporting to Abel has gone smoothly.

"I've enjoyed working with him. He's incredibly smart," Weber said about Abel.

Berkshire's eclectic collection of more than 90 businesses includes a variety of industries. Previously, Abel oversaw Berkshire utility businesses.

Shareholder Bill Laub, 67, of Moline, Illinois, said he wasn't worried about Buffett's successor or the future of the company because he has faith in the team behind him.

"If something happened to Warren, there would be the shock and the blip, and then it will all be over," Laub said.

Laub said he hopes there is another big acquisition in Buffett and Berkshire's future. Buffett has said that he has had a hard time finding acquisitions selling for reasonable prices in recent years because the market has soared.

"I hope he finds something good to buy," Laub said.

Buffett faced several questions about whether relatively recent deals, including Kraft Heinz, were paying off for Berkshire:

Nation

All survive as plane carrying US military crashes into river

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A military-chartered jet carrying 143 people landed hard, then bounced and swerved as the pilot struggled to control it amid thunder and lightning, ultimately skidding off the runway and coming to a crashing halt in a river at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

AP

In this photo released by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, authorities work at the scene of a plane in the water in Jacksonville, Fla., Friday, May 3, 2019. Officials say a charter plane traveling from Cuba to north Florida ended up in a river at the end of a runway.

It meant chaos and terror for passengers in the Boeing 737 as the plane jolted back and forth and oxygen masks deployed, then overhead bins opened, sending contents spilling out.

But authorities said all the people onboard emerged without critical injuries Friday night, lining up on the wings as they waited to be rescued. Only a 3-month-old baby was hospitalized, and that was done out of an abundance of caution, officials said.

"I think it is a miracle," said Capt. Michael Connor, the base's commanding officer, hours after the plane landed. "We could be talking about a different story this evening."

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team of investigators Saturday to the crash site in the St. Johns River in north Florida, where the aircraft was still partially submerged in shallow water and its nose cone was sliced off, apparently from the impact. Two pet cats and a dog were still on the plane as well, and their status wasn't immediately clear.

Rescuers looked in the cargo area after the plane ended up in the river but saw no crates and heard no animal noises. When they returned later, they didn't see any pet carriers above water, Connor said.

Members of the 16-person NTSB team recovered the plane's flight data recorder Saturday.

Investigators will examine the aircraft, the environment and human factors in trying to discover why the plane rolled into the river. The pavement on the runway wasn't grooved, and Landsberg said grooves can help the water flow off the pavement more quickly. He said investigators will examine what role that may have, with reported heavy rain during the landing.

The flight took off Friday from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with 136 passengers and seven crew members. It was a regular charter run by Miami Air International, which has many military contracts, including weekly flights between Guantanamo Bay and the Jacksonville air station as well as Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The company didn't immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press.

The aircraft had no prior history of accidents, said NTSB vice chairman Bruce Landsberg.

Among those onboard was Cheryl Bormann, a defense attorney, who described the chaotic landing.

The plane "literally hit the ground and then it bounced. It was clear that the pilot did not have complete control of the plane because it bounced some more, it swerved and tilted left and right," she told CNN. "The pilot was trying to control it but couldn't, and then all of a sudden it smashed into something."

Bormann said people weren't screaming because the flight staff worked quickly to give direction. Everyone onboard helped one another to put on their life vests and then evacuated to safety.

ACROSS THE NATION

Service to remember student who charged N. Carolina gunman

WAYNESVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A memorial service is scheduled to mark the passing of a North Carolina college student credited with saving classmates by rushing a gunman firing inside their lecture hall. A memorial is scheduled Sunday evening for 21-year-old Riley Howell, who was fatally wounded while tackling the gunman accused of killing two and wounding four at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this week. Howell has been called a hero. He will be remembered at a 1,900-seat auditorium on the grounds of a Methodist retreat on Lake Junaluska. A private memorial service will be held for sophomore Reed Parlier, identified by authorities by his first name Ellis. His family declined to give specifics of the time and place for the second student killed during the campus shooting.

Family of Boy Scout who died says group was 'fully prepared'

PHOENIX (AP)—The family of a 16-year-old Boy Scout who collapsed and died while on a troop hiking trip in the southern Arizona desert says he loved scouting and that he and fellow scouts and their leaders were experienced hikers "fully prepared" for their planned activities. Joshua White of Goodyear died April 27 while at Picacho Peak State Park. His family said in a statement released Friday night through the Boy Scouts that help was called immediately and life-saving measures taken "but unfortunately unable to revive him." Sheriff's officials said the hikers had water but ran out at the top of the trail up 1,500-foot (457-meter) Picacho Peak. Cause of death was not immediately available but sheriff's officials said the boy showed signs of extreme dehydration and died on the way down.

Asia

Thai king is officially crowned

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn was officially crowned amid the splendor of the country's Grand Palace, taking the central role in an elaborate centuries-old royal ceremony that was last held almost seven decades ago.

The coronation represents a renewal of the monarchy's power after the October 2016 death at age 88 of Vajiralongkorn's revered father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It also comes amid more than a decade of political strife, including a 2014 military coup and a contentious election less than two months ago.

AP

In this image made from the video, Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn, center, sits on the throne as he is officially crowned king at the Grand Palace, Saturday, May 4, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand.

After completing the rites on Saturday, Vajiralongkorn issued his post-coronation royal command, which is supposed to set the tone for his reign. It closely echoed the words of his father's first command.

"I shall continue, preserve, and build upon the royal legacy and shall reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the people forever," the king said, according to an unofficial translation.

The 66-year-old Vajiralongkorn has served as king for more than two years since assuming the throne. On Saturday, he received his crown from the chief Brahmin, a Hindu priest who played a guiding role in the mixed Buddhist-Hindu ceremony, which was televised live across the nation on all channels.

The king, known as Rama X for being the 10th monarch in the Chakri dynasty, then placed the crown atop his head. The "Great Crown of Victory," said to date from 1782, is 66 centimeters (26 inches) high, weighs 7.3 kilograms (16 pounds) and is ornamented with diamonds set in gold enamel. It was one of several pieces of royal regalia, including the Royal Sword of Victory and the Royal Fan and Fly Whisk, presented in homage to his power.

Absolute rule by kings ended with a 1932 revolution in Thailand that ushered in a constitutional monarchy. Nevertheless, Thai kings are regarded as almost divine and have been seen as a unifying presence in a country that has seen regular bouts of political instability as it rotates between elected governments and military rule.

Vajiralongkorn since taking the throne has tightened control over royal institutions and acted to increase his influence in his country's administration. The powers he acquired centralize royal authority in his hands and make explicit his right to intervene in government affairs, especially in times of political crisis.

Like kings before him, Vajiralongkorn is protected by one of the world's strictest lese majeste laws, which makes criticism of him and other top royals punishable by up to 15 years in prison and has dampened open debate about the monarchy's role in society.

Cyclone Fani kills at least 15 as it moves to Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A mammoth preparation exercise that included the evacuation of more than 1 million people appears to have spared India a devastating death toll from one of the biggest storms in decades, though the full extent of the damage was yet to be known, officials said Saturday.

Cyclone Fani packed winds of 250 kilometers (155 miles) per hour when it made landfall in eastern Odisha state on Friday, equivalent in strength to a Category 4 hurricane, said Mohammad Heidarzadei, an expert on cyclones at Brunel University of London.

As of late Saturday, India's National Disaster Response Force director S.N. Pradhan said three people had been killed, though the storm smashed thatched-roof huts, uprooted trees and power lines, ripped the roof off a medical college and sprayed the emptied coastline with debris.

"The precautions that have been taken should be continued," Pradhan said.

Officials cautioned that the death toll could rise as communications were restored.

Fani crossed over India's West Bengal state and moved northeast toward Bangladesh on Saturday, weakening from a severe cyclonic storm to a cyclonic storm.

At least a dozen people had been confirmed killed in Bangladesh as the cyclone hovered over the country's southwestern coast early Saturday, delivering battering rain storms. Lightening killed at least six people, local newspapers and TV reported.

However, the death toll had not increased by Saturday afternoon, suggesting effective preparedness in Bangladesh as well.

Bad weather from the storm system was projected to affect around 100 million people in South Asia, from India's distant Andaman Islands to Mount Everest in Nepal.

The relatively low casualty count demonstrates much improved disaster readiness in India since 1999, when a "super" cyclone killed around 10,000 people and devastated large parts of Odisha.

"In the event of such a major calamity like this—where Odisha was hit by close to a super-cyclone—instead of being a tragedy of humongous proportion, we are in the process of restoring critical infrastructure. That is the transformation that Odisha has had," the state's top government official, Naveen Patnaik, said in a statement.

India's disaster response agency said authorities were working "on war footing" to restore power and communications, and clear roads of debris.

Widespread power outages, damaged water supplies and roads blocked by fallen trees and power lines made transport around the affected area difficult, officials said.

Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra, the deputy relief commissioner at Odisha's emergency center, said his phone line and internet were down for most of Saturday.

World

AFTER DAYS OF TUMULT

What's next for Venezuela?

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—After days of upheaval, Venezuela is sinking back into political stalemate.

In the fourth month of their standoff, President Nicolás Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaidó are unable to deliver a knock-out blow as Venezuela spirals deeper into neglect, isolation and desperation. Abrupt shifts or behind-the-scenes power plays can't be ruled out, but there is a sense that the two camps are entrenched—too strong to be dislodged, too weak for clear-cut victory.

So what's next?

The opposition and its chief patron, the United States, emerged with fewer options after Guaidó, leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, stood Tuesday outside a military base and urged the armed forces to overthrow Maduro. The plan collapsed. Venezuela's military commander instead pledged loyalty to Maduro, and four people died in clashes between protesters and police after the opposition's risky bid for control.

The streets of Caracas were calm on Thursday and Friday, although Guaidó called on protesters to gather outside military bases Saturday to try to persuade soldiers to support them. He is also planning a general strike, though how effective that would be in a country with a shattered economy and an exhausted population is open to question.

One Venezuela expert said the opposition and the U.S. now have the hard task of devising a new way forward after seeing a small contingent of security forces join Guaidó outside the military base, but no sign that any other military units had heeded the call to rebel.

"You only get to play this card once, and now that it's been played it's hard to see what else can be done," said Fernando Cutz, who until April 2018 led U.S. policy on Venezuela at the National Security Council under both Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump.

At the same time, Maduro's government is under massive strain, loathed by much of the population as it attempts to steer a decaying nation. The fact that it has not yet moved to arrest Guaidó after accusing him of trying to stage a coup suggests it is not confident enough to do so and is wary about any increase in diplomatic and economic pressure from the U.S. and dozens of other nations that say Guaidó is Venezuela's rightful president.

Any attempt to detain Guaidó would be "highly inflammatory," said Eileen Gavin, senior Latin America analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, a global risk consultancy.

"From Maduro's perspective, it might be better to simply dismiss Guaidó as a mere nuisance and a U.S. stooge, thereby undermining Guaidó's faltering movement and—once again—splintering the fractious Venezuelan opposition," Gavin said in a report.

The government has started to target people since the failed rebellion. On Thursday, Venezuela's top court ordered the arrest of Guaidó's political mentor, Leopoldo López, who took refuge in the Spanish Embassy after defying a house arrest order and joining the attempt to topple Maduro this week. The court also opened a treason investigation of Edgar Zambrano, the deputy head of the National Assembly who had joined Guaidó outside the military base in Caracas.

Ebola outbreak deaths top 1,000 in Congo amid clinic attacks

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—More than 1,000 people have died from Ebola in eastern Congo since August, the country's health minister said Friday as hostility toward health workers continues to hamper efforts to contain the second-deadliest outbreak of the virus.

Health Minister Oly Ilunga told The Associated Press that four deaths in the outbreak's epicenter of Katwa helped push the death toll to 1,008. Two more deaths were reported in the city of Butembo.

The outbreak declared almost nine months ago already had caused the most deaths behind the 2014-2016 outbreak in West Africa's Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia that killed more than 11,000 people.

A volatile security situation and deep community mistrust have hampered efforts to control the epidemic in eastern Congo. Ebola treatment centers have come under repeated attack, leaving government health officials to staff clinics in the hotspots of Butembo and Katwa.

International aid organizations stopped their work in the two communities because of the violence. A Cameroonian epidemiologist working with WHO was killed last month during an assault on a hospital in Butembo.

Insecurity has become a "major impediment" to controlling the Ebola outbreak, Michael Ryan, WHO's health emergencies chief, told reporters in Geneva earlier Friday.

He said 119 attacks have been recorded since January, 42 of them directed at health facilities, while 85 health workers have been wounded or killed. Dozens of rebel groups operate in the region, and political rivalries in part drive's community rejection of health personnel.

"Every time we have managed to regain control over the virus and contain its spread, we have suffered major, major security events," Ryan said. "We are anticipating a scenario of continued intense transmission" of the disease.

WHO has said the most recent Ebola outbreak remained contained to eastern Congo even as the number of cases rises in a dense, highly mobile population near the border with Uganda and Rwanda.

Many people fear going to Ebola treatment centers, choosing instead to stay at home and risk transmitting the disease from the virus to caretakers and neighbors.

Residents of highly volatile Butembo believe Ebola was brought to the city on purpose, said Vianney Musavuli, 24.

"I am deeply saddened to learn that the number of Ebola deaths has exceeded 1,000," Musavuli said "The problem is that people here in this area believe Ebola is a political thing, and that's why residents are still attacking the teams in retaliation."

Area residents were blocked from taking part in a January presidential election, with Congo's government citing safety concerns. Some wonder why money is poured into fighting Ebola when many more people die each year of malaria and other preventable diseases.

Health & Wellness

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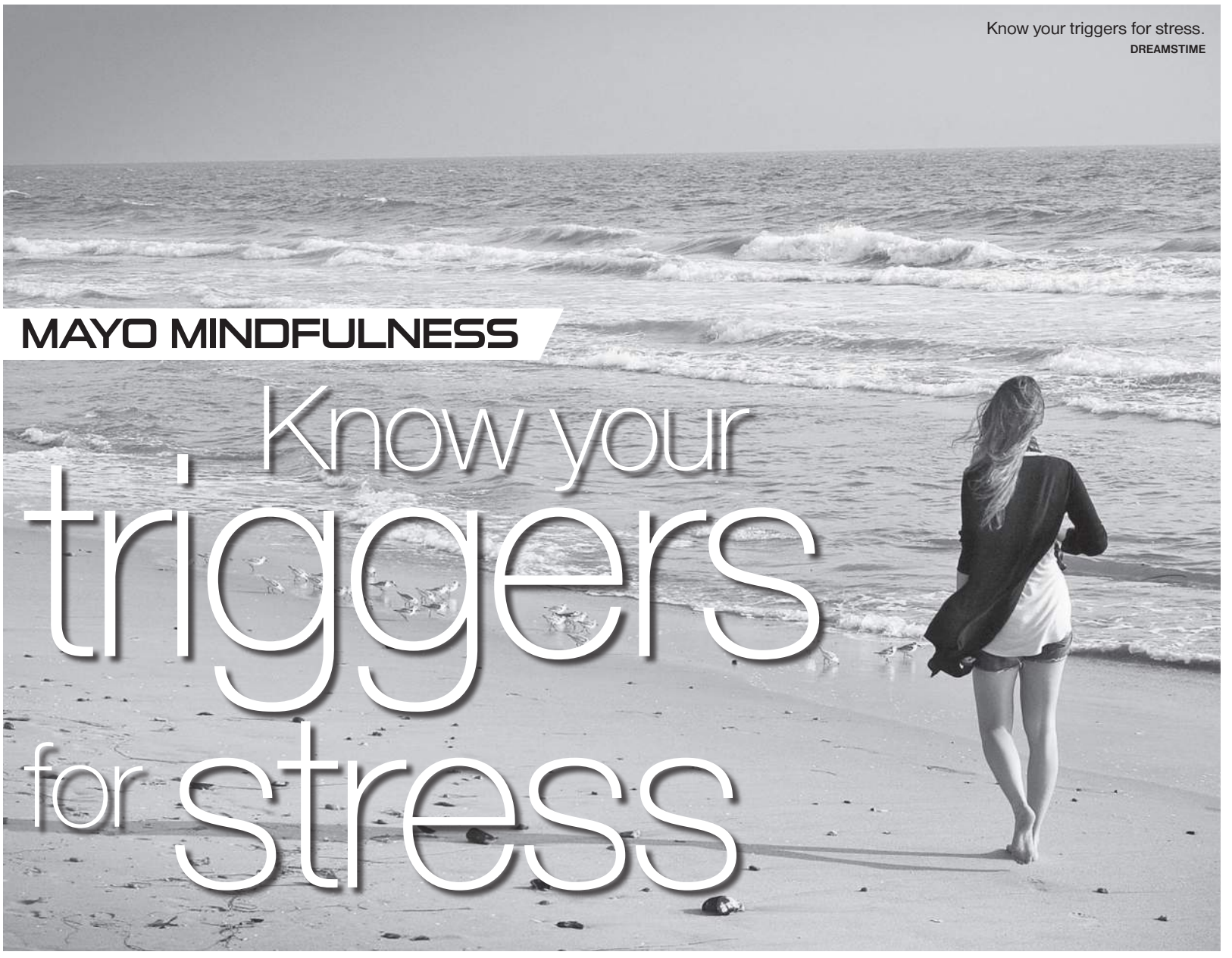

Know your triggers for stress.
DREAMSTIME

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Know your triggers for stress

The kids are screaming, the bills are due and the pile of papers on your desk is growing at an alarming pace. It's undeniable—life is full of stress. Understanding the types and sources of stress—short term and long term, internal and external—is an important part of stress management. So what stresses you out?

MAIN TYPES OF STRESS

Stress is your body's reaction to the demands of the world. Stressors are events or conditions in your surroundings that may trigger stress. Your body responds to stressors differently depending on whether the stressor is new or short term—acute stress—or whether the stressor has been around for a longer time—chronic stress.

ACUTE STRESS

Also known as the fight-or-flight response, acute stress is your body's immediate reaction to a perceived threat, challenge or scare. The acute-stress response is immediate and intense, and in certain circumstances it can be thrilling. Examples of acute stressors include having a job interview or getting a speeding ticket.

A single episode of acute stress generally doesn't cause problems for healthy people. However, severe acute stress can cause mental health problems—such as post-traumatic stress disorder. It can also cause physical difficulties such as tension headaches, stomach problems or serious health issues—such as a heart attack.

CHRONIC STRESS

Mild acute stress can actually be beneficial—it can spur you into action, motivate and energize you. The problem occurs when stressors pile up and stick around. This persistent stress can lead to health problems, such as headaches and insomnia. The chronic-stress response is more subtle than is the acute-stress response, but the effects may be longer lasting and more problematic.

Effective stress management involves identifying and managing both acute and chronic stress.

KNOW YOUR STRESSORS

Effective stress management starts with identifying your sources of stress and developing strategies to manage them. One way to do this is to make a list of the situations, concerns or challenges that trigger your stress response. Take a moment to write down some of the top issues you're facing right now. You'll notice that some of your stressors are events that happen to you while others seem to originate from within.

EXTERNAL EXASPERATIONS

External stressors are events and situations that happen to you. Some examples of external stressors include:

- **Major life changes.** These changes can be positive, such as a new marriage, a planned pregnancy, a promotion or a new house. Or they can be negative, such as the death of a loved one or a divorce.
- **Environment.** The input from the world around us can be a source of stress. Consider how you react to sudden noises, such as a barking dog, or how you react to a bright sunlit room or a dark room.
- **Unpredictable events.** Out of the blue, uninvited houseguests arrive. Or you discover your rent has gone up or that your pay has been cut.
- **Workplace.** Common stressors at work include an impossible workload, endless emails, urgent deadlines and a demanding boss.
- **Social.** Meeting new people can be stressful. Just think about going on a blind date, and you probably start to sweat. Relationships with family often spawn stress as well. Just think back to your last fight with your partner or child.

Strategies to manage external stressors include lifestyle factors such as eating a healthy diet, being physically active and getting enough sleep—which help boost your resiliency. Other helpful steps include asking for help from others, using humor, learning to be assertive, and practicing problem-solving and time management. Consider how you use your time and energy by focusing on activities that are important to you, paring down the number of activities you're involved in, and saying no to new commitments.

INTERNAL IRRITATIONS

Not all stress stems from things that happen to you. Much of our stress response is self-induced. Those feelings and thoughts that pop into your head and cause you unrest are known as internal stressors. Examples of internal stressors include:

- **Fears.** Common ones include fear of failure, fear of public speaking and fear of flying.
- **Uncertainty and lack of control.** Few people enjoy not knowing or not being able to control what might happen. Think about how you might react when waiting for the results of a medical test.
- **Beliefs.** These might be attitudes, opinions or expectations. You may not even think about how your beliefs shape your experience, but these preset thoughts often set us up for stress. Consider the expectations you put on yourself to create a perfect holiday celebration or advance up the career ladder.

The good news is that we have the ability to control our thoughts. The bad news is that our fears, attitudes and expectations have been our companions for a long time and it often takes some effort to change them. Strategies to manage internal stressors include reframing your thoughts and choosing a positive mindset, challenging negative thoughts, using relaxation techniques, and talking with a trusted friend or counselor.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP

Recognizing a problem is the first step toward solving it. By beginning to identify and understand the sources of your stress, you've taken the first step in learning to better manage it. Manage it, not eliminate it. Stress is a fact of life. And that's OK. You can learn ways to handle it. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

What to eat before a workout to lose weight

By KAREN D'SOUZA
THE MERCURY NEWS

If you turned over a new leaf this year and are vowing to stick with your exercise plan, you likely already have most of the gear you need, from a kickin' pair of athletic shoes to a shiny new eco-water bottle, but there is one crucial element you may have missed. What are you eating? Knowing what to nibble on before and after you exercise can be the difference between meeting your fitness goals and falling headlong into a tub of gelato by nightfall.

The goal is to fuel your fitness, to stay energized without eating so much you upset your stomach. If you are always pushing yourself to workout when you feel pooped, it'll be tough to stick to the plan overtime.

"If you haven't eaten in a long time, your body is in a fasted state," Nancy Cohen, a professor in the department of nutrition at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst told CNN. "Normally, your body will use glucose for fuel and begin to break down muscle glycogen to deliver the glucose your body needs for exercise. In a fasted state, the muscle glycogen will be depleted sooner. Your body will then turn to breaking down fats for the energy it needs."

But you don't want to eat a whole cheeseburger either. As Consumer Reports advises, a snack packed with fiber-rich carbs and protein right about 30 to 60 minutes ahead of a workout is just about perfect. Think small snack, maybe around 200 calories.

And tailor the food to the activity. If you are lifting weights to build your strength, go with protein, like Greek yogurt, almonds or string cheese. If you are breaking a sweat with cardio, complex carbs such as raisins or string cheese might be ideal.

This may sound surprising but what you eat right after is also key to getting in shape, notes Consumer Reports. If you are trying to lose weight, you don't want to find yourself famished by dinner time, which may lead to poor choices (pizza delivery!).

Instead keep your appetite in check. Nosh on a healthy post-exercise appetizer, such as apple slices with peanut butter, that keeps you going and helps replenish the body so you're not totally wiped out. And don't forget to rehydrate.

Life & Style

19-year-old director wins top award at Tribeca Film Festival

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Phillip Youmans was just 17 and finishing high school when he completed his lyrical debut feature film, "Burning Cane." Now, his movie has won the top award at the 18th Tribeca Film Festival.

"Burning Cane" won three awards at Tribeca on Thursday, including best U.S. narrative feature. The film also took awards for best cinematography and best actor for Wendell Pierce ("The Wire") who stars as a Louisiana preacher drunkenly grieving the loss of his wife.

Youmans, a New Orleans native, is currently a freshman at New York University. With the award, he wins a prize of $20,000. He is the youngest filmmaker to ever compete at the Tribeca Film Festival, let alone win its top award. He is also the first African American director to win the award.

Set in rural Southern Louisiana, "Burning Cane" was inspired by Youmans' upbringing in the Baptist church. He helped raise money for the film through crowd-sourcing, and eventually landed Benh Zeitlin, the director of "Beasts of the Southern Wild," as an executive producer.

The jury that chose the best-narrative feature award hailed Youmans, who also wrote his film's script, as "a voice that is searingly original."

"We loved this filmmaker's vision and we love this filmmaker's inevitable brilliant future," said the jury.

Tribeca also awarded best documentary to Ellen Fiske and Ellinor Hallin's "Scheme Birds," about a Scottish girl's coming of age, and best international film to Bora Kim's "House of Hummingbird," a South Korean drama about an eighth-grader in 1994 Seoul. Like "Burning Cane," both are feature-length directing debuts.

"This year's winners signal a bright future ahead for independent film," Festival Director Cara Cusumano said in a statement.

Q&A: Theron, Rogen on the comedy of politics, and vice versa

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

This image released by Lionsgate shows Seth Rogen, left, and Charlize Theron in a scene from "Long Shot." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—The last time Seth Rogen made a movie set in the political world, it went a little rocky.

"The Interview," which Rogen starred in, co-directed and produced, prompted the ire of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, led to one of the most damaging corporate hacks in American history and brought endless turmoil to Sony Pictures. The ordeal rose to the highest ranks of the government, including President Barack Obama and then-Secretary of State John Kerry.

The rollout for "Long Shot" has gone much smoother. The reviews are excellent. No dictators have waged attacks against it. And this time, the secretary of state is fictional.

Charlize Theron plays Charlotte Field, a glamorous, workaholic secretary of state running for president. She hires Rogen's dishevelled but dedicated journalist as a speechwriter. Together, they're a mismatch of pant suit and cargo pants. Against the odds, the film balances a deeply funny odd-couple tale with a sweetly sincere romance.

Theron and Rogen may seem like an unlikely pair. But as they showed in a recent interview that touched on the gender politics of both Hollywood and Washington, they share an easy chemistry based on candor and self-deprecation.

AP: Is the movie's title a reference to what it's like to open your movie against "Avengers: Endgame"?

Rogen: Yes, exactly. (Laughs) We just like to call it what it is. "Uphill Battle" was the next option. "Crushed By Disney" was another good one. If less than 10% of the people that saw "Avengers" last weekend see our movie, we're a massive success.

AP: In "Knocked Up," there was some talk about the believability of your character's relation with Katherine Heigl's character. Did you worry people might react similarly to the gap between these characters?

Theron: Once people see it, they don't even question it.

Rogen: It's funny where people's brains go. It's incredibly eye-opening and very insulting that people like to boil it down to looks. I think it shows a real weird warped perception of reality. It is not like everyone is with someone who is 100% physically equal to them. The contrary is obviously the truth.

Theron: And also if you're building a story just around that, you have nowhere to go with it.

Rogen: I really honestly think that there is no correlation between people's looks and their attraction to one another. I think maybe there is a very superficial, immediate sense at times, but I think that very quickly goes away. I've been repelled by very attractive women, found them horrible to be around.

Theron: Me too.

AP: What have you learned about each other from spending so much time together?

Theron: A lot of stuff. I did not know that Seth did karate and that he had dreadlocks at some point. I did not know that he made two movies with Stormy Daniels.

Rogen: That's one more than with you.

Theron: Inside I'm hurt a little bit.

Rogen: I've learned mostly the insane s--- Charlize has to put up with on a daily basis in comparison to me as a celebrity. The amount of appalling questions that get casually thrown her way is shocking to me. (Theron laughs.) I am amazed at the things people feel comfortable saying to her. Just when I think I've heard the most appalling thing someone could just ask without any consideration that it's something you should never say to anyone, some other mother------- comes and says something 1,000 times crazier.

Theron: Thank you for noticing.

AP: The sexism that female political candidates deal with is also a significant part of the movie.

Theron: We've allowed our society to be comfortable with this general idea that you can ask a woman what you never ask a man, and not think twice about it. And, yeah, I feel like women in politics are under that kind of scrutiny in a way that has not changed since somebody like Geraldine Ferraro was on a ticket. We still do the same s--- that we did to her in '84.

AP: After the Sony hack revealed unequal pay between male and female stars, Charlize fought for equal pay . Was that a conversation on this film?

Theron: We went into this 50-50 partners, right from the moment that we met each other. That was how Seth handled it, that's how I handled it. Now that know Seth a little bit better, I don't think we even needed a discussion about it. But I tend to be very transparent right up front. I've made many movies where I've worked just as hard, and sometimes harder, than my male counterparts and have not gotten share. So it is something that's important to me and it is something I always bring up right in the beginning. I've now gotten to a place where if someone can't respect that or see the benefit of that, I'm very lucky that I'm in the position where I don't have to do something. A lot of women that don't have that luxury.

AP: Your characters' personal lives come under intense public scrutiny. Charlotte is given a "likability" test. I'm guessing that's something you both identified with as famous people.

Theron: My publicist wrote me a text two weeks where she was like: "You're a lovely human being but you're a terrible client." It was just two weeks of nonstop nonsense that people were taking out of context.

Rogen: I used to come out of press days wondering what people would take apart or focus on. The answer is none of them, ever. And then I saw Charlize and the most innocuous things get blown out of proportion. It's a real double standard.

Theron: It sucks. I don't know how to be a person that's constantly censoring myself. I'm not a secretive person. I'm a private person but I'm not a secretive person. But it's getting harder and harder because all people really care about is getting clicks on something.

AP: It's a tricky thing to make anything funny and crowd-pleasing about today's deeply partisan political world.

Rogen: The analogy we kept using was just putting a hand on the audience's shoulder and being like: "We live in this world with you." (Both laugh) Because I watch a lot of movies and it doesn't feel like that, honestly. It feels like they just decided, "Eh, it's too hard to acknowledge this world." Or they didn't want to because it's too controversial.

Theron: I know for myself, when I hear "romantic comedy" I have an idea of what that is. I think for us, it was really important to set the bar a little higher and to make something that felt like it was incredibly romantic but also really funny. And those are really, really hard movies to make. And we did it. (Both laugh)

Rogen: As the people who did it, we think we did it.

Theron: But in a humble way.

Peter Mayhew, Chewbacca in the 'Star Wars' films, dies at 74

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Peter Mayhew, the towering actor who donned a huge, furry costume to give life to the rugged-and-beloved character of Chewbacca in the original "Star Wars" trilogy and two other films, has died, his family said Thursday.

Mayhew died at his home in north Texas on Tuesday, according to a family statement. He was 74. No cause was given.

Mayhew

As Chewbacca, known to his friends as Chewie, the 7-foot-3 Mayhew was a fierce warrior with a soft heart, loyal sidekick to Harrison Ford's Han Solo, and co-pilot of the Millennium Falcon.

Mayhew went on to appear as the Wookiee in the 2005 prequel "Revenge of the Sith" and shared the part in 2015's "The Force Awakens" with actor Joonas Suotamo, who took over the role in subsequent films.

"Peter Mayhew was a kind and gentle man, possessed of great dignity and noble character," Ford said in a statement Thursday. "These aspects of his own personality, plus his wit and grace, he brought to Chewbacca. We were partners in film and friends in life for over 30 years and I loved him... My thoughts are with his dear wife Angie and his children. Rest easy, my dear friend."

Mayhew defined the incredibly well-known Wookiee and became a world-famous actor for most of his life without speaking a word or even making a sound—Chewbacca's famous roar was the creation of sound designers.

"He put his heart and soul into the role of Chewbacca and it showed in every frame of the films," the family statement said. "But, to him, the 'Star Wars' family meant so much more to him than a role in a film."

Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker alongside Mayhew, wrote on Twitter that he was "the gentlest of giants—A big man with an even bigger heart who never failed to make me smile & a loyal friend who I loved dearly. I'm grateful for the memories we shared & I'm a better man for just having known him."

3 black women are Miss USA, Miss Teen USA , Miss America

NEW YORK (AP)—When Cheslie Kryst won the Miss USA crown, it marked more than a personal triumph: It meant that for the first time, three black women are the reigning Miss USA, Miss Teen USA and Miss America.

The North Carolina lawyer completed the historic triple Thursday with pageant winners 2019 Miss America Nia Franklin and recently crowned 2019 Miss Teen USA Kaliegh Garris.

"The three young women who have focused their energy on demonstrating how standards of black beauty speak for American standards of beauty are to be commended," said Thomas DeFrantz, a professor in the Department of African and African American Studies at Duke University.

"These three standard-bearers prove that black beauty is at the heart of a 21st century American ideal," he added.

Franklin, from New York, won her title in September in Atlantic City, New Jersey, becoming the first woman also to win the Miss America crown without having to don a swimsuit. Garris, from New Haven, Connecticut, won her crown in April, and hopes to become a trauma nurse.

Kryst, a former Division I athlete and attorney at Poyner Spruill LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina, won her crown in Reno, Nevada. She holds an MBA from Wake Forest University.

In this Thursday, May 2, 2019 file photo, Miss North Carolina Cheslie Kryst wins the 2019 Miss USA final competition in the Grand Theatre in the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nev. AP

"Mine is the first generation to have that forward-looking mindset that has inclusivity, diversity, strength and empowered women. I'm looking forward to continued progress in my generation," said Kryst, after accepting her crown. She now advances to the Miss Universe competition.

The oldest of the three is the Miss America pageant, which began in 1921 but women of color were barred from participating until the 1940s by a rule that said contestants must be of "the white race." Frustration led to the creation of Miss Black America contest.

In 1970, Cheryl Browne became the first black woman to participate in the Miss America pageant. Since then, more than a dozen black women have been named either Miss America or Miss USA, including actress Vanessa Williams, the first-ever black Miss America in 1983.

The Miss USA contest was created in 1952 and crowned the first African American contestant—Carole Anne-Marie Gist—in 1990. A year later, Janel Bishop won the Miss Teen USA title, becoming the first African American winner.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Justin Bieber working with YouTube on 'top secret project'

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Bieber got his start posting cover songs on YouTube and now he's working with the platform on a "top secret project." YouTube announced Thursday that it is planning a project with the Grammy-winning Canadian pop star, set to premiere next year. No more details about the Bieber special were revealed. Before releasing his debut song in 2009, Bieber gained popularity from posting his performances on YouTube. He went on to top the pop charts with hits like "Sorry" and "Boyfriend," win a Grammy Award and tour the world. YouTube announced a slate of new programming Thursday, including documentaries on Colombian singer Maluma and socialite Paris Hilton. They also said "Kevin Hart: What The Fit" would return for a third season next year.

Judge tosses $128M damages in 'Bones' profit dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge on Thursday overturned a $128 million punitive damages award to the stars and producers of the long-running Fox TV show "Bones" in a dispute over profits. Judge Richard Rico's decision is a victory for the studio, 21st Century Fox, which called it a vindication. The ruling leaves in place a $50 million award for compensatory damages, interest and attorney fees. David Boreanaz and Emily Deschanel, the stars of "Bones" from 2005 through 2017, sued Fox in 2015, saying it denied them profits by licensing the show to Fox's TV division and to Hulu for below-market rates. They were joined by executive producer Barry Josephson and author Kathy Reichs, who wrote the novels "Bones" is based on. Their lawyer said he will appeal Rico's ruling.

Kelly Clarkson had appendix removed after hosting awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kelly Clarkson had her appendix removed soon after hosting the Billboard Music Awards. The 37-year-old tweeted she "may or may not have broken down in tears after the show from pain." She flew home to Los Angeles after Wednesday night's show in Las Vegas and had surgery on Thursday. Despite the pain, Clarkson performed her new song, "Broken & Beautiful," and opened the awards show with a medley of some of the year's biggest hits. It was the second year in a row that she hosted the awards. Clarkson tweeted she's "feeling awesome." She closed her tweet with a hashtag of the showbiz mantra: "TheShowMustGoOn."

Peabo Bryson recovering after heart attack, cancels concerts

NEW YORK (AP) — A representative for R&B singer Peabo Bryson says he is on his way to making a full recovery after suffering a mild heart attack. Bryson's representative says Friday he is improving but has to cancel several planned concerts so he can rest. The statement reads, "Mr. Bryson is still listed in stable condition and is improving rapidly." Bryson, 68, is a two-time Grammy winner known for hits such as "Beauty & the Beast" and "A Whole New World." His rep says his family continues to ask for privacy, "but extends their deepest gratitude and appreciation to friends and fans for the outpour of love and support expressed throughout this experience."

Vince Vaughn convicted of reckless driving for DUI arrest

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Vince Vaughn has been convicted of reckless driving after his arrest for failing a drunken driving test last year. An attorney for the 49-year-old "Wedding Crashers" star entered a no contest plea to the misdemeanor count Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court. Vaughn was arrested June 10 at a sobriety checkpoint in the upscale community of Manhattan Beach. Police say he repeatedly refused to get out of his car and then failed a field sobriety test and a blood alcohol test. Vaughn was sentenced to three years of unsupervised probation and ordered to complete a three-month alcohol program. He has been advised that if he drives drunk and kills someone he could be charged with murder. Vaughn's attorney Blair Berk declined comment after the hearing.

Baby wait goes on for Meghan, Prince Harry and royal fans

LONDON (AP)—The baby wait goes on for Meghan, Prince Harry and royal-watchers around the world. Media and well-wishers were camped out in Windsor on Saturday — as they have been for days — awaiting the birth of the couple's first child. The royal couple haven't revealed their birth plans or due date, though Meghan said months ago that the baby was due in late April or early May. On Friday, Buckingham Palace postponed a planned May 8 trip by Harry to Amsterdam for "logistical" reasons. The palace says the prince still plans to attend an Invictus Games event in The Hague the next day. Meghan is not expected to have the baby at St. Mary's Hospital in London, where her sister-in-law Kate had all three of her children. She is sticking closer to the couple's home near Windsor Castle, some 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of the British capital. The baby will be seventh in line to the British throne, and the eighth great-grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II.

Sons' visitation will include meeting mom's live-in beau

DEAR ABBY: I am going through a nasty divorce. My sons, ages 4, 11 and 12, live with my husband, 1,000 miles away. They will be with me for summer vacation. This will be the longest stay they will have with me, and I'm not going to lie—I am excited and nervous at the same time.

My problem is, my children do not know I have been seeing someone, and we live together. How should I break this to them? They didn't get to meet him during the holidays when we were together. My new beau, "Sean," thought it would be a bad idea, and I took his advice.

I have asked Sean how he feels about this, and he said he loves me very much, but he is scared of my boys. I'm fearful of how my children will react once I introduce them. I am afraid they will want to go back to their father. My soon-to-be-ex-husband said he has told them I left them for a new beau, which is not true. How can I introduce them slowly, and what can I anticipate for a backlash with the children?

TREADING LIGHTLY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TREADING: Because you and Sean are living together, it's a little late to introduce Sean "slowly." Consider calling your older boys and saying that you will want them to meet "someone special who has made Mom very happy" and you are excited that they will be with you.

Suggest to Sean that if he's not used to relating to kids, he should schedule an appointment with a psychologist who can offer him suggestions on what to do. He should also sign up for parenting classes if time permits.

Once your boys arrive, schedule plenty of one-on-one time with them. Because of what your almost-ex has told them, it's important they know they are most important to you, and you did NOT leave them for anyone.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 66-year-old married man with two grown kids. I taught high school for 30 years.

A couple of years ago, a young English teacher, "Marci," was teaching a class in my room, and we became friends. Since then, we have been going out on Fridays after school to have a few beers. We just enjoy each other's company, but my wife thinks it is weird.

We have been married for 34 years, and most of them have been happy. It doesn't make sense to me that she thinks I shouldn't be hanging out with my former co-worker. I have started not telling her Marci will be at the brewery, when in fact she will be. I am recently retired and don't have many friends other than the people I worked with all those years. Am I being weird or is my spouse?

CONFUSED IN OHIO

DEAR CONFUSED: You are not being weird; you are being dishonest. Your wife isn't weird, either. She's feeling threatened because you are "hanging out" with a younger woman.

Stop lying and start being honest again. Explain it to your wife the way you did to me—,that you don't have many friends other than the people you worked with all those years, and you would like to maintain those relationships -- at least until you can find new friends. If you invited her to come along with you, it might allay her fears.

■■■

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DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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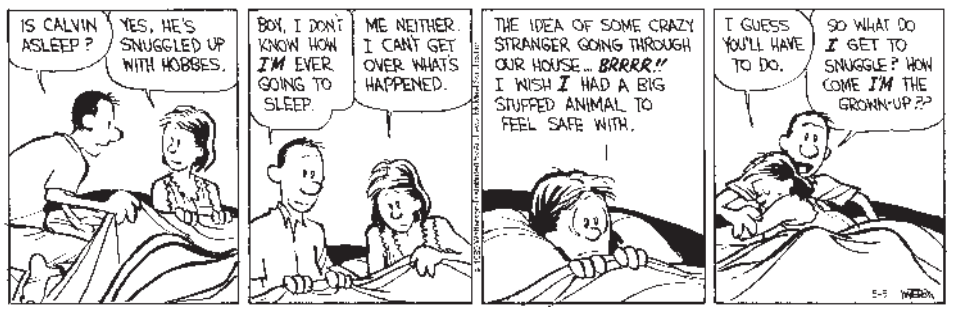
Pastimes

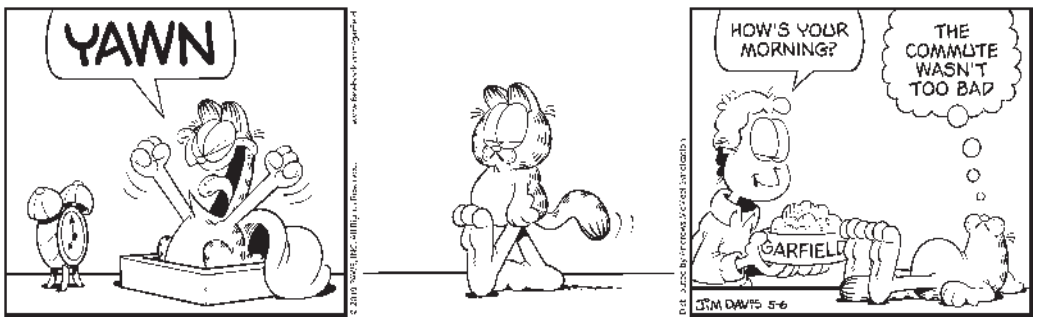
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS CALVIN ASLEEP?
YES, HE'S SNUGGLED UP WITH HOBBES.
BOY, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M EVER GOING TO SLEEP.
ME NEITHER. I CAN'T GET OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED.
THE IDEA OF SOME CRAZY STRANGER GOING THROUGH OUR HOUSE... BRRRR!! I WISH I HAD A BIG STUFFED ANIMAL TO FEEL SAFE WITH.
I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO DO.
SO WHAT DO I GET TO SNUGGLE? HOW COME I'M THE GROWN-UP??

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



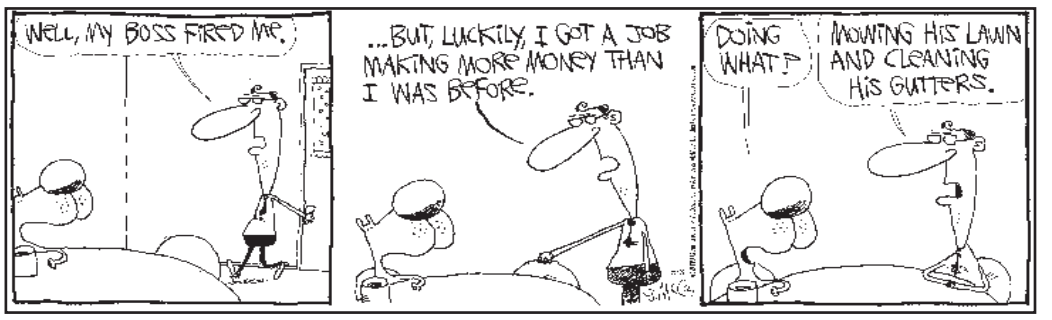
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

AAAA!!
IT'S BACK!! THE DANGLING UFO!!
WHO'S OUT HERE? I KNOW IT'S A DRONE!
HAVE A NEW WHITE WHALE, DO YOU?
AHAB NEEDS COFFEE. AND BETTER LUNGS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WELL, MY BOSS FIRED ME.
...BUT, LUCKILY, I GOT A JOB MAKING MORE MONEY THAN I WAS BEFORE.
DOING WHAT?
MOWING HIS LAWN AND CLEANING HIS GUTTERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

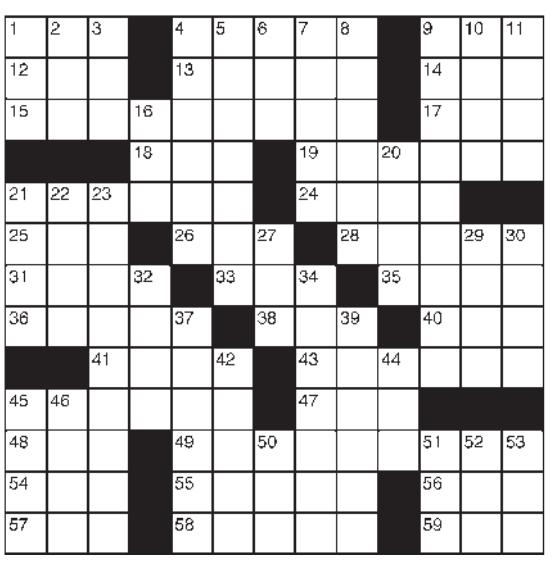
ACROSS
1 Energy
4 Amtrak express
9 Sushi fish
12 Praise in verse
13 VIP on Air Force One
14 Tennis feat
15 Museum piece
17 Train lines (Abbr.)
18 Sprite
19 Holler
21 Word game with dice
24 Horseshoe site
25 Brit. record label
26 Not 'neath
28 Bolivian city
31 Wilson's predecessor
33 Observe
35 Castle
36 Caper
38 Music booster
40 GPS suggestion
41 Skip
43 Telethon array
45 Soft and weak
47 Kanga's kid
48 Use a shovel
49 Land in the Irish Sea
54 Oklahoma city
55 Beethoven's "Für — "
56 Kimono sash
57 Unruly group
58 Impudent
59 Tex- — cuisine

DOWN
1 Pledge
2 Wedding words
3 Mal de —
4 Moon mission
5 Brewed beverages
6 JFK info
7 "The Addams Family" butler
8 Houston team
9 Picnic veggie
10 Beige
11 For fear that
16 Small barrel
20 Thy
21 Alpha follower
22 Muscat's land
23 Eloquent person's talent
27 Actor Stephen
29 Memory method
30 Stretches (out)
32 Marathoner's stat
34 Catherine, notably
37 Municipalities
39 "Nuts!
42 Inventor Nikola
44 Gut-punch reaction
45 Wax-coated cheese
46 Rover's pal
50 Fleur-de- —
51 Oft-tattooed word
52 Jurist Fortas
53 Kibosh

Solution time: 26 mins.

F	B	I	■	D	C	C	■	R	A	S	P	Y	
O	L	D	■	E	N	E	■	A	R	E	I	E	
L	I	T	■	C	-	C	A	P	I	T	A	L	
D	N	A	■	M	O	I	S	T	■	■	■	■	
S	I	G	N	■	A	-	P	■	C	H	A	P	
■	■	■	I	A	N	■	S	C	R	A	P	E	
M	O	O	N	S	■	■	■	A	O	R	T	A	
T	I	P	J	A	R	■	M	N	O	■	■	■	
A	L	T	A	■	H	O	C	■	K	I	L	N	
■	■	■	■	B	E	R	R	A	■	T	A	O	
E	L	D	O	R	A	D	O	S	■	A	B	E	
M	A	U	R	A	■	E	S	T	■	L	O	L	
S	P	E	E	D	■	R	E	A	■	Y	R	S	

Last Friday's Answer 05-06



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gabourey Sidibe, 36; George Clooney, 58; Tom Bergeron, 64; Willie Mays, 88.

Happy Birthday: Detail and precision, along with originality and innovation, will capture attention and bring you closer to your long-term goals. Taking care of your personal finances, health and contractual changes will ease your mind and free up time to work toward a better future. Don't limit what you can do or let fear of failure hold you back. Embrace the future. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 23, 30, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make your own opportunities. If you wait for someone to approach you, little will be accomplished. Present what you have to offer, and you will gain support and access to a stable future. Traveling, attending business meetings and romance should be priorities. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A little patience, thought and planning will go a long way. Set up meetings, call on experts and get your personal documents in order. A financial opportunity is heading your way, and personal improvements are within reach. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do your own thing, and keep your distance from anyone who tends to be a bad influence. Relationships should be based on honesty, integrity and equality. A physical activity or intellectual pursuit will spark your enthusiasm. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't lose sight of your goal because someone is trying to outmaneuver you. A steady pace and subtle change will add validity to your pursuit, helping you gain enough momentum to get what you want. Persistence is key. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consistency will matter. Approach others knowing what you want and what you are willing to give in return. A partnership will require complete honesty and the willingness to compromise if it is going to be beneficial. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't let anyone take advantage of you or ruin your plans. If change is needed, make it happen, and if learning something new will help you lock in an opportunity, do your best to raise your qualifications. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Go the distance. Find out all you can, and prepare to stand up for your rights. A domestic or personal situation can be resolved if everyone involved is willing to do his or her part. Laziness will not be tolerated. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll be drawn to people and projects that are unique and could benefit from what you have to contribute. Don't go overboard; let others do their part while you focus on what you do best. A partnership will grow into something gratifying. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Focus on the positive. Stick close to home and to the people you know you can trust. A personal change will help shift your focus to a healthier lifestyle. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Control your emotions when dealing with friends, relatives and peers. If you or someone else is inconsistent or unpredictable, it will be difficult to get things done. Home improvements will help take your mind off someone who is causing you grief. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You have more opportunities than you realize. Greater involvement with organizations or people you have worked with in the past will lead to prospects that not only interest you, but have the potential to be prosperous as well. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let anger take over. If you don't like something, walk away. Your time and energy will be better spent helping a cause or collecting favors in order to reach an objective. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, flexible and hardheaded. You are determined and innovative.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9					
		4	8		7	5		
	9		5	6	3		7	
	1	7				4	6	
6		2		3		9		5
		8	5			7	3	
	5		6	1	2		8	
		3	9		4	2		
				8				

Difficulty Level ★ 5/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	4	6	9	5	3	2	8	7
2	7	3	4	1	8	6	5	9
5	9	8	6	2	7	3	1	4
6	1	9	2	3	4	8	7	5
8	2	5	7	9	6	1	4	3
4	3	7	5	8	1	9	6	2
9	6	1	3	4	5	7	2	8
7	5	2	8	6	9	4	3	1
3	8	4	1	7	2	5	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BUNK BEDS — Solution: 5 letters

E	R	U	T	I	N	R	U	F	R	I	E	N	D	S
S	L	A	I	R	E	T	A	M	A	E	R	D	S	D
L	R	Y	D	E	K	C	A	T	S	F	O	U	R	E
U	L	I	T	X	P	T	F	E	A	T	U	R	E	S
M	O	E	A	S	Y	A	V	H	E	I	G	H	T	I
B	W	L	L	P	E	L	H	F	H	S	E	M	S	G
E	E	O	E	E	E	I	R	S	P	I	H	S	I	N
R	R	F	S	H	V	A	R	A	L	L	B	A	S	E
N	E	T	S	P	M	A	C	O	E	E	N	F	B	S
I	D	T	U	E	I	E	T	B	T	P	O	L	E	R
T	D	W	N	L	A	Y	O	E	O	I	O	O	D	E
L	A	I	I	D	O	O	W	D	D	T	M	O	R	W
I	L	N	T	S	L	E	T	S	O	H	T	R	O	A
U	G	U	P	P	E	R	Y	P	U	C	C	O	O	R
B	S	A	F	E	T	Y	R	A	T	I	L	I	M	D

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Base, Bedroom, Beds, Bottom, Built-in, Camps, Design, Dormitories, Drawers, Dream, Elevated, Features, Floor, Four, Frame, Friends, Furniture, Height, Hostels, Ladder, Lay, Loft, Lower, L-shape, Material, Mesh, Military, Moon, Occupy, Pair, Railing, Relax, Safety, Shelves, Ships, Sisters, Slumber, Space, Stacked, Style, Twin, Two, Type, Unit, Upper, Wood

Last Friday's Answer: Flip-Flops

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2019

Opening date: April 29, 2019 Closing date: May 17, 2019

Positions:
(1) Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
(1) BHS Technician (Saipan)
(1) Assistant Custodial Supervisor (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, May 17, 2019.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Executive Director

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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McIlroy positioned for run at third Wells Fargo title

AP

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his approach shot on the second hole during the third round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, May 4, 2019.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Rory McIlroy was in position to become the first three-time winner of the Wells Fargo Championship.

McIlroy celebrated his 30th birthday Saturday with a 3-under 68 to pull within two shots of leaders Max Homa, Jason Dufner and Joel Dahmen.

"I'm right there going into (Sunday), so I'm excited for that," McIlroy said after a round that was delayed twice by weather. "I'm three shots closer to the lead than I was starting off the day, so that's a good thing."

Nobody finishes the Wells Fargo Championship better than McIlroy.

He's been dominant on Sundays at Quail Hollow Club, which he calls one of his favorite courses. In his seven previous final rounds at the tournament he is a combined 19-under par, including a 62 in 2010 when he won the first of his two trophies.

His average final round score at the Wells Fargo is a 68.7, better than any other player. He's trying to join Tom Weiskopf as the only three-time winners at Quail Hollow. Weiskopf won the old Kemper Open three times on this course before the tournament moved to Washington.

McIlroy has experience on his side entering Sunday, too.

He's up against two players—Homa and Dahmen—who've never won on the PGA Tour, and Dufner, who is looking to break out of a lengthy slump and who appears to be just barely holding on after shooting 71 on Saturday. Pat Perez also was in contention, one shot ahead of McIlroy, but he's coming off a torn calf muscle.

As he walked from hole to hole, McIlroy was repeatedly greeted by fans wishing him happy birthday.

"I felt the love," he joked.

But there were no gifts for the star from Northern Ireland early in the round.

He opened with pars on his first six holes. It wasn't until the par-5 seventh that McIlroy drained a short putt for his first birdie. He finished the round with four birdies and one bogey.

Ironically, the bogey came after his best shot of the day.

McIlroy nearly holed out from the middle of fairway 99 yards away on the par-4 12th when ball just missed rolling backward into the cup with some backspin. It appeared McIlroy was building some momentum, but the second horn sounded suspending play again as he was lining up his birdie putt and he had to go all the way back to the clubhouse again. When McIlroy returned to the course, he three-putted for bogey.

"That one sort of got me a little bit," McIlroy said about the second delay. "But it's the same for everyone, we just have to deal with it the best we can."

But McIlroy pulled it together, making birdie on the short par-4 14th hole and the reachable par-5 15th hole to claw back to within two shots of the leaders, none of whom could separate themselves from the pack coming down the stretch at Quail Hollow's difficult three closing holes called the Green Mile.

McIlroy said the key for him Sunday will be patience, something he learned after winning the Players Championship earlier this year. During that victory he started the final two rounds 2-over before battling to get on track.

"I told myself I'm right in the thick of the tournament but you have to stay patient and almost let it come to you rather than try to chase it," McIlroy said about The Players Championship. "That was on that golf course. I think it's similar here. You have to pick your spots to be aggressive and make your birdies, the par 5s, the two short par 4s. If you can do that and pick those off and you don't make many mistakes, you know, 68 or 67's always going to do you pretty well around here."

It's no surprise that McIlroy is in contention.

He's in midst of another outstanding season. He's made the cut in all nine events he's entered and not finished worse than a tie for 21st,at the Masters.

Canelo Alvarez beats Jacobs in middleweight title fight

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Daniel Jacobs was bigger. Canelo Alvarez was better—but not by much.

Alvarez added another title belt to his collection Saturday night by winning rounds early and outboxing Jacobs in their middleweight showdown to take a close but unanimous 12-round decision.

Two ringside judges scored it 115-113, while the third had it 116-112. The Associated Press scored it 115-113 in favor of Alvarez.

"It was just what we thought," Alvarez said. "We knew it would be a difficult fight. We just did our job."

Jacobs, who lost $1 million out of his purse by not making the contracted weight the morning of the fight, was clearly bigger than Alvarez and landed perhaps the biggest punch of the fight in the ninth round when he connected with a left hook.

But Alvarez was fast and quick and kept Jacobs off balance with his movement as he won a narrow decision in the same arena where he fought to a draw and a close win over Gennady Golovkin.

"He's a pot shotter," Jacobs said. "I felt I did enough to get the victory."

The judges didn't, though, largely because Alvarez was more active early and was the more aggressive of the two fighters. Alvarez built a lead early, winning the first five rounds on one scorecard and four of the five on the other two.

But Jacobs seemed to find himself midway through the fight and roared back to make it competitive on the scorecards. He won the 12th round on two of the three scorecards.

Alvarez, a 5-1 favorite at fight time, was tested but did enough to win in a fight that had no knockdowns and no serious fouls. Neither fighter ever appeared badly hurt, though Jacobs landed some of the bigger punches in the late rounds.

That included the left hook in the ninth that seemed to shake Alvarez, if only for a moment.

"It was a hard shot but I went to the corner and they asked me and I said it was no big deal," Alvarez said. "I continued with the fight. What do you want?"

Alvarez, the red-headed Mexican sensation, earned $35 million for risking his titles against Jacobs, a Brooklyn fighter who held a piece of the middleweight crown himself. He got another $1 million from the purse of Jacobs after Jacobs weighed in too heavy the day of the fight.

Jacobs had weighed in at the class limit of 160 pounds at the official weigh-in on Friday. But the two boxers had agreed in their contract not to weigh more than 170 pounds Saturday morning and Jacobs weighed 173.6.

Alvarez was aggressive from the opening bell, throwing punches with intent while Jacobs was content to try and fight from the outside while backing up most of the time. Neither fighter landed any sustained flurries, but Alvarez had more snap to his punches and landed them with more consistency.

By the middle rounds, Jacobs was switching from conventional to southpaw and back again, trying to find a rhythm. But Alvarez kept moving his head and making Jacobs miss, and often found him with a counter.

Giants rookie QB gets more than passing grade at minicamp

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — After two days of rookie minicamp, it's easy to see why the New York Giants drafted Daniel Jones of Duke with the No. 6 pick.

He reminds them of someone they know: Eli Manning.

Jones can throw all the passes. His focus is football. And when he talks about life in the NFL, he sounds like a coach.

Jones may be bland, but that's the way the Giants like their players these days. Team first, everything else second.

Rock the boat and the Giants' patience will run out — as it did with Odell Beckham Jr.

In the minicamp that ends Sunday, Jones' throws were crisp. If there was any drawback, some tosses had a little too much heat on them.

He showed he could handle the media. He said nothing controversial and didn't bother to see what anyone had written or said about him.

"I got up, got over here and opened up the second install," he said. "That's what I needed to do."

Coming to the camp, the Giants gave Jones a portion of their playbook so they could run plays with the 76 players in attendance.

"It has been manageable, but it's all new stuff for everyone," Jones said. "I think it was a good amount of stuff. It's going to be a challenge just to learn the verbiage and the way everything is called, the way everything is structured in the offense. I thought it was a good amount for the first day and we kind of got an equal amount the second."

Jones will be given a bigger package to take home to North Carolina. The rookies and free agents are due back a week from Monday, when they will start working with the veterans.

"I'm going to try to learn as much as I possibly can," said Jones, who also plans to throw during the week off. "It's tough without being on the field necessarily in 11-on-11 football, but if he expects me to do it, I will make sure I do my best to do it."

Harden shines as Rockets outlast Warriors in OT

HOUSTON (AP)— James Harden made a 3-pointer to finish off the Golden State Warriors in overtime.

Eric Gordon helped the Rockets get to that point with the best playoff performance of his career.

Harden scored 41 points, and Houston outlasted the Warriors 126-121 on Saturday night to cut the deficit in the Western Conference semifinals to 2-1.

A layup by P.J. Tucker put Houston up by three with about 2 minutes left and the Warriors missed shots on their next two possessions. That set up the 3-pointer by Harden with 49 seconds left that made it 124-118.

Kevin Durant made three free throws after that, but Harden added a layup to stretch the lead. Stephen Curry, who dislocated a finger in Game 2, missed a wide-open layup and Harden grabbed the rebound to secure the victory.

Gordon added a playoff career-high 30 points with a playoff-best seven 3-pointers.

"It's all about bringing something to the table, offensively, defensively every single night to give yourself a chance to win," he said.

Durant said Gordon was "very important" to Houston's win.

"He kept them afloat for a while," he said.

The Rockets withstood a 46-point performance from Durant and late surge by the Warriors to avoid falling into a 3-0 hole in the best-of-seven series.

Game 4 is Monday night in Houston.

Harden led the team despite recovering from injuries to both eyes he sustained in Game 2 when he was hit in the face by Draymond Green. He said they didn't bother him on Saturday, but both eyes remained bloody red in spots.

"That's James. That's what he does," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Curry finished with 17 points on 7-for-23 shooting after missing two layups in overtime. He wouldn't say if his injury was limiting him on Saturday night.

"I've just got to make those," he said. "If I'm out there playing, I've got to produce and it just didn't happen tonight."

Green added 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Houston was clinging to a one-point lead when Iguodala's 3-pointer put Golden State up 112-110 with 45 seconds remaining in the fourth. Harden made two free throws a few seconds after that to tie it and Durant missed a jump shot on the other end to give Houston a chance to win it in regulation.

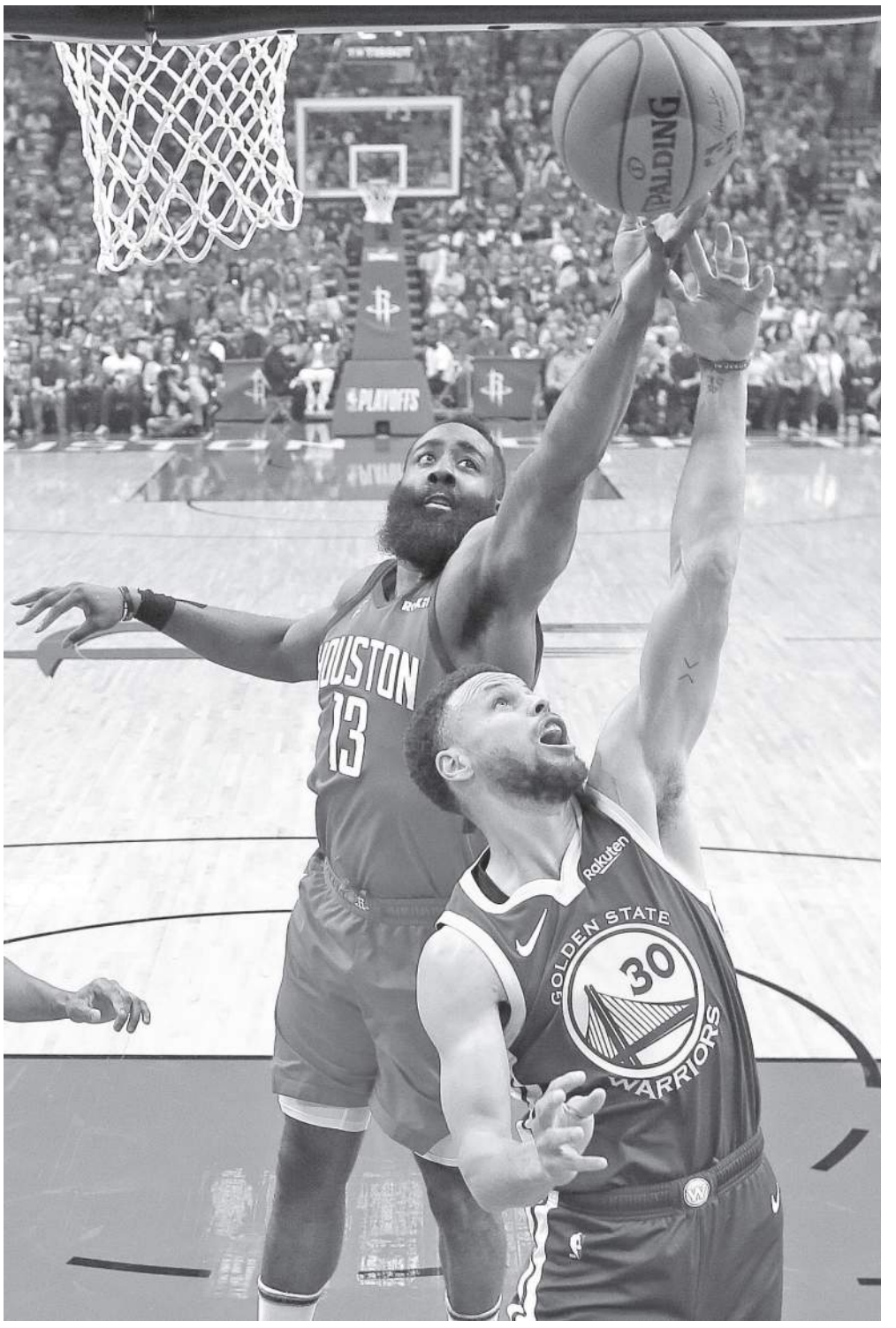
Chris Paul was in the lane when Klay Thompson forced a jump ball. Harden got the ball but didn't have time to get a shot off before the buzzer.

The Warriors used a 15-2 run at the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth to take a 94-93 lead with about 10 minutes remaining. Durant was unstoppable in that stretch, scoring all 10 of Golden State's points to start the fourth.

Tucker, Houston's defensive stopper who had been on the bench with four fouls, re-entered the game to try and help slow Durant down. Tucker was really unhappy while he sat on the bench and watched Durant singlehandedly give Golden State the lead.

Asked if he said something to D'Antoni about it to get back in the game he said: "Oh, I said something to all of them."

Durant cooled off after that, but Iguodala and Thompson both made 3-pointers soon after that and the Warriors remained up by a point with about 8 minutes left in the fourth.



AP

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) and Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry vie for a rebound during the first half of Game 3 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Saturday, May 4, 2019, in Houston.

The Rockets were up by nine at halftime, and Harden and Paul made 3-pointers on consecutive possessions in the third to push the lead to 72-61.

A 3-pointer by Curry cut Houston's lead to seven later in the period before Houston used an 8-2 spurt to extend it to 83-70 with about 3 minutes left in the quarter.

Houston had a 12-point lead after a dunk by Clint Capela with less than a minute left in the third. Golden State scored the last five points of the quarter, with a 3 from Green, to get within 91-84 entering the fourth.

Houston got out to a much better start on Saturday night after being outscored 57-39 in the opening quarter of the first two games and the Rockets only trailed by one entering the second.

They used a 33-point second quarter, powered by 13 points from Gordon, to take a 58-49 lead into halftime.

Meanwhile, Durant passed Dwyane Wade for 10th place on the NBA's career playoff scoring list.

Curry botched dunk

A key part of being a great scorer is having a short memory and knowing how to put the misses behind you to focus on the next shot. Even so, Curry would probably like this one back.

In the closing moments of overtime during Game 3 against the Houston Rockets and with the Golden State Warriors trailing by five, Curry broke free and had an unimpeded lane to the bucket. He rose up for what should have been an easy dunk to cut the deficit to three. Only it wasn't. Curry missed the slam, the ball bouncing off the front of the rim.

Curry faced the music after the game. Asked what happened, he smiled and said it was "pretty self-explanatory."

Why not just lay it in?

"I was feeling pretty good, had a nice head of steam." Curry said. "Probably a little bit of frustration too with how the rest of the night went. But not my finest moment."

Curry finished had 7-of-23 shooting, including 2-of-9 from 3-point range. It was the second consecutive game in the series under 40% from the field for Curry, who shot 47.2% during the regular season.

No rest for the weary: Nuggets, Blazers back at it in Game 4

Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets could use the kind of break everybody else is getting in the second round of the NBA playoffs.

If anybody deserved some time off, it's the All-Star center who just played 65 minutes in a game.

But there's no rest for the weary now. The Nuggets and Trail Blazers will be back on the court Sunday for Game 4, surely a little low on fuel after they tied an NBA record by playing four overtimes Friday night in Portland's 140-137 victory.

"Both teams are exhausted, so it's the same for them as it is for us," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "We will not use that as an excuse. We haven't used it all year long and we won't start using it now."

The conference semifinal round is a series of starts and stops, where it's difficult for any team to build much momentum because there have been so many gaps between games.

Philadelphia and Toronto, who have Game 4 of their series Sunday, play just twice in a seven-day span. In the other Eastern Conference semifinal, Milwaukee and Boston had two days off in between both Games 2 and 3, and Games 3 and 4.

When Golden State and Houston played Game 3 of their series Saturday night, it was their first time back on the court since Tuesday.

Then there's Denver and Portland, who barely had time to catch their breath after the Trail Blazers' victory in Friday's marathon gave them a 2-1 lead.

They are playing every other day to start their series, and would only have an extra day between games if it's extended to a seventh game.

So while Philadelphia's Joel Embiid has ample opportunity for treatment on his sore left knee that was such a problem when the postseason began, Portland's Enes Kanter's left shoulder has little time to heal before he'd have to get back on the court to resume tussling with Jokic.

"As far as the minutes, everybody's tired. Were built for what's happening right now. That's what we had to do to win the game," Portland's Damian Lillard said. "Now we've got to go do our jobs away from the floor to make sure that at 4 o'clock Sunday we're ready."

Recover quickly and win Sunday, and they've evened the series and regained home-court advantage. But if not, the No. 2 seeds are facing a 3-1 hole, which is a tough spot no matter their energy level.

Celtics need Irving to step up

Kyrie Irving signed up for this, for a chance to be the guy on a team and to lead the team beyond the second round of the NBA playoffs.

That doesn't mean Irving needs to score 40 points with 10 assists and five rebounds in Boston's next game.

But he needs to be better than he has been through the first three games of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Technically speaking, Game 4 between Boston and Milwaukee is not a must-win for the Celtics.

But after losing 123-116 to the Bucks in Game 3 of their Eastern Conference semifinals series on Friday, the Celtics can't afford to lose Game 4 and trail 3-1 in the series, giving Milwaukee a chance to close out the series at home.

Yes, we know all about teams coming back from a 3-1 deficit to win a series. But it's still rare.

Boston needs to win Game 4 if it wants a chance of advancing to the conference finals.

And it starts with Irving. It's not all on him. Celtics coach Brad Stevens and his staff have work to do. Irving's teammates must play better, harder and with more focus.

In this series, Irving averages 21.3 points, seven assist, five rebounds and 1.3 steals. At quick glace, that's solid. But he's shooting 39.3% on from the field and 27.8% on three-pointers, and Boston has been outscored by 26 points with Irving on the court the past two games

Struggling Sale sparkles to earn first win

CHICAGO (AP)—Chris Sale returned to where he began his major league career — and to some fundamentals that have made the left-hander one of baseball's premier pitchers.

Sale snapped out of his early season funk to earn his first win with an impressive performance against his former team, tossing six scoreless innings of three-hit ball in the Boston Red Sox's 6-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox 6-1 on Friday night.

Sale (1-5) entered with a 6.30 ERA through six starts, but was dominant against Chicago in striking out a season-high 10. The lefty retired seven of the first eight White Sox batters and didn't allow a hit until Yoan Moncada lined a sharp single with two outs in the fourth.

"Just kind of got back to some old things I used to do and made me successful, and changed a couple of things," Sale said. "Just pitching stuff. More just kind of being in the zone (with) quality pitches. Just kind of executing in certain counts.

"It was nice to feel like I'm back on track and actually help this team win a ballgame."

Manager Alex Cora said Sale's body language had been improving.

"His command looked very good," Cora said. "He was able to use the inside part of the plate against righties. Kept them off-balance with his slider. For him to come here and pitch this way was good."

Rafael Devers launched a three-run homer deep to center off Reynaldo Lopez in the first inning. Michael Chavis added two-run shot to the top of the left-field stands in the sixth as Boston won for the fourth time in its last five games.

Sale walked one and hit two batters as he improved to 2-1 against Chicago, who dealt the seven-time All-Star to Boston in December 2016 for four prospects, including Moncada. Jose Rondon and James McCann each had a double off Sale, but didn't advance.

Rondon, an infielder, pitched a scoreless ninth for Chicago despite giving up two singles as Chicago lost for the second time in its last seven. McCann drove in Chicago's run in the eighth with a single off Colten Brewer, the second of three Boston relievers.

Rondon said through a translator that manager Rick Renteria told him to be ready for a mop-up outing.

"It was fun and definitely something I'll have to do again," Rondon said.

Lopez (2-4) allowed six runs and eight hits through five-plus innings. In his previous start, the right-hander yielded only an unearned run and struck out a career-high 14 in six innings.

Lopez said mistakes on the homers doomed him.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White in Chicago on Friday, May 3, 2019.

Twins 7, Yankees 3

In New York, Jake Odorizzi kept up his impressive run, pitching two-hit ball over six shutout innings and leading the Minnesota Twins past the Yankees.

The Twins had lost nine straight times at Yankee Stadium, including the 2017 AL wild-card game, before Odorizzi and three home runs boosted them.

Gary Sanchez homered for New York, his third in two games.

The Yankees activated third baseman Miguel Andujar from their abundant injured list after he missed 28 games with a shoulder tear. He went 1 for 3 with a walk but also made two errors, misplaying a grounder early and later making a wild throw.

Indians 5, Mariners 4

In Cleveland, Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and the Indians rallied past Seattle, the Mariners' sixth straight loss.

Santana tagged Connor Sadzeck (0-1) for his fifth home run of the season.

Tim Beckham hit a leadoff home run to break a 3-all tie in the eighth — Seattle's fourth solo homer of the game. Edwin Encarnacion, Daniel Vogelbach and Dylan Moore also connected for Seattle, which leads the AL with 65 home runs.

Tyler Olson (1-0) retired the final hitter in the eighth for the win. Brad Hand walked Encarnacion to begin the ninth, then struck out the next three hitters for his 10th save.

Royals 15, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Alex Gordon homered as part of a four-run first inning, and the Kansas City Royals routed the Tigers.

The Royals chased Detroit right-hander Tyson Ross (1-4) in the second inning and scored the game's first seven runs. Homer Bailey (3-3) allowed two runs in six innings in a solid outing for Kansas City.

Whit Merrifield also homered for the Royals, and Jeimer Candelario and Ronny Rodriguez went deep for the Tigers. Kelvin Gutierrez had four hits and a stolen base for Kansas City in his eighth major league game.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 5

In Chicago, Javier Baez led off the eighth inning with a tie-breaking homer, and the surging Cubs wiped out a four-run deficit to beat the St. Louis Cardinals.

Baez drove a 2-2 pitch from John Brebbia (1-1) to right for his 11th homer, sending the Cubs to their season-high sixth straight win. Fans chanted "Javy! Javy!" as he came out for a curtain call.

Taylor Davis hit a tying grand slam in the fourth against Michael Wacha for his first career homer.

Brandon Kintzler (1-0) worked a scoreless eighth. Pedro Strop retired all three batters in the ninth for his fourth save in five chances as the Cubs cut St. Louis' lead in the NL Central to a half-game despite a shaky start by Yu Darvish.

Reds 9, Giants 2

In Cincinnati, Nick Senzel hit his first major league homer two innings after being robbed of one by center fielder Kevin Pillar, and the Reds beat the San Francisco Giants.

Pillar climbed the fence and made a spectacular grab on Senzel's drive in the third, but Cincinnati's top prospect left no doubt his next time up in the fifth. He followed Derek Dietrich's third homer in two games with his own solo shot into the right-field seats, one of five homers for the Reds.

Eugenio Suarez hit a three-run drive, Puig added a no-doubter among his season-high three hits, and Tucker Barnhart also went deep, boosting Cincinnati's count to eight over the last two games.

Braves 9, Marlins 2

In Miami, Ozzie Albies hit a grand slam, Ronald Acuña Jr. tied a career best with four hits and the Atlanta Braves topped the Marlins.

Brian McCann drove in three runs for Atlanta, which trailed 2-0 after five innings before breaking out against Miami's bullpen. Even Braves starter Mike Soroka got in on the offense, collecting his first career RBI with a seventh-inning single—his first hit of 2019 and the second of his brief big league career. Albies tied a career best with five RBIs. The other time he did that: May 10, 2018, also at Marlins Park.

Orioles 3, Rays 0

In Baltimore, Dylan Bundy took a two-hitter into the eighth inning, Dwight Smith Jr. homered and the Orioles blanked the Rays.

In a matchup between the team with the best record in the majors and the rebuilding, last-place Orioles, Bundy (1-4) was the difference. The right-hander gave up three hits in 7 1/3 innings, struck out four, walked one and hit a batter. Mychal Givens worked the ninth for his third save.

The victory improved Baltimore's major league-worst home record to 4-11.

Pirates 6, Athletics 4

In Pittsburgh, Kevin Newman hit a go-ahead two-run triple in the seventh inning and the Pirates rallied past the Oakland Athletics.

Newman, in his at first-bat in nearly a month thanks to a cut on his right middle finger, ripped a shot down the right-field line off J.B. Wendelken (0-1) to bring home Gregory Polanco and Bryan Reynolds with two outs in the seventh as the Pirates won for the third time in four games. Francisco Cervelli followed with an RBI single to give Pittsburgh a boost on the same day it lost ace Jameson Taillon for at least a month with a strained right (throwing) elbow.

Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 2

In Denver, Luke Weaver pitched seven strong innings, Nick Ahmed and Carson Kelly hit back-to-back home runs in a three-run second and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Colorado Rockies for their ninth win in 11 games.

David Peralta also homered for the Diamondbacks, who have won six straight on the road. Wilmer Flores and Christian Walker hit RBI doubles, and Weaver helped himself with a sacrifice fly.

Nationals 10, Phillies 8

In Philadelphia, Kurt Suzuki and Victor Robles hit consecutive home runs in the eighth inning to rally the Washington Nationals past the Phillies.

It was just the third win in the last 10 for the Nationals, whose injuries continued to pile up. Already without Ryan Zimmerman (foot), Anthony Rendon (elbow) and Trea Turner (finger), Washington placed left fielder Juan Soto (back) on the 10-day injured list before the game.

Astros 14, Angels 2

In Monterrey, playing nearly 500 miles from Minute Maid Park, the Houston Astros felt right at home for their first ever regular season game in Mexico.

Alex Bregman hit two of Houston's five home runs and the Astros broke out the bats in a big way, routing the Los Angeles Angels.

Michael Brantley, Yuli Gurriel and George Springer also homered for Houston in the opener of a two-game series in Mexico.

After totaling just four runs in losing their previous two games to Minnesota, the Astros teed off at the raucous Estadio de Beisbol de Monterrey.

3 make NMSA April honor roll

TENORIO

FRANCISCO

GREGOIRE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Soccer's Sunjoon Tenorio and Sharmaine Francisco and tennis' Anthony Gregoire were named top athletes for the month of April during the Northern Mariana Sports Association meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Gregoire and Tenorio shared the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Male Student Athlete of the Month award, while Francisco took the same recognition handed to a female student athlete.

The junior tennis player got the nod of NMSA members for ruling the boys U14 singles event of the 2017 DFS-CNMI Junior Tennis Championships. Gregoire won in the finals against David Kwon, who defeated the former in their two previous meetings for the 2018-2019 season. In their third duel, Gregoire went back and forth against Kwon and survived an epic super-tiebreaker third set, 6-3, 2-6, 22-20. In the super-tiebreaker, the first to reach 10 points with a 2-point margin wins, but neither Gregoire or Kwon was willing to give in thus in took 45 minutes for the match to be decided in favor of the Saipan International School student. Gregoire completed the upset against Kwon after nearly three hours of action.

Meanwhile, Tenorio made it to the honor roll for leading MP United Football Club to a title defense in the boys U18 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Tenorio has scored 11 goals for MP United, which secured the division crown for the second straight time last week, as the squad kept its undefeated record (7-0-0 win-draw-loss) in the season. Tenorio and company bagged the U18 title with still one game left in their schedule (against the CNMI Boys U15 National Team next week).

Meanwhile, Francisco is also playing in the same youth league and her impressive performance helped Kanoa Football Club remain in contention for the girls U16 division championship.

The Marianas High School student is way ahead in the goals scored category with her 22 (excluding last Saturday's match) and is likely to win this season's Golden Boot award. Francisco is the lone player to have recorded at least 20 goals in the division, as second-ranked Keisha Deleon Guerrero of Southern United FC has only tallied 16.

With Francisco on target, Kanoa closed out April with a 6-1-1 record, just one win behind Southern United and still in the thick of the fight for the division crown. Francisco and her team played their penultimate match (versus MP United) last Saturday, while their crucial collision against Southern United will take place this Saturday.

TENORIO

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better as we always have over the years," Podziewski said.

The defender also hopes that more and more CNMI youth players will get the opportunity to play in the collegiate ranks.

"It's amazing to think that two players from a small island will be playing for the same school. I hope to be a great role model to the next generation of players to keep playing soccer," Podziewski said.

Nadal confident in Madrid despite disappointing run

MADRID (AP)—Rafael Nadal hadn't started the clay-court season with these many setbacks in four years.

Not since 2015 had Nadal arrived at the Madrid Open without having won a title either in Monte Carlo or in Barcelona, the tournaments that mark the start of clay swing in Europe.

That year, Nadal was coming off a series of injuries and ended not reaching the final of either tournament. He also didn't win the title in Madrid, Rome and the French Open, dropping out of the top five in the rankings for the first time in a decade.

Now things are different, though. Despite the disappointing results, the second-ranked Nadal says there is no reason for concern.

"My confidence is back," Nadal said after the semifinal loss to Dominic Thiem in Barcelona, which ended his run of three straight titles in the tournament. "I really believe that I made very good improvements to create a good base to try to achieve my goals during the next couple of weeks."

Nadal will be trying to win his third straight French Open title — and 12th overall — at Roland Garros in June.

He lost to Fabio Fognini in the semifinals at Monte Carlo, where he also had won three titles in a row. The only other time Nadal hadn't won either in Monte Carlo or in Barcelona was in 2014.

"Against Fognini I played the worst match probably in 14 years on clay. (Against Thiem) I played a good match. I was competitive and I enjoyed the match. I really felt competitive for the first time in a way that I want to feel myself. I am happy and I am confident that I made a big improvement."

The 17-time Grand Slam winner has won a clay-court title in each of the last 15 seasons. He is an eight-time finalist in Madrid, with his last of five titles coming in 2017. He was defeated by Thiem in the quarterfinals last year.

Nadal will start this year's campaign against the winner of the match between young Canadians Felix Auger-Aliassime or Denis Shapovalov, a semifinalist last year. Auger-Aliassime is one of the sensations on tour this season, having reached the final in Rio and the semifinals in Miami.

The other half of the Madrid draw has top-seeded Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, who will be making his return to clay-court tournaments after two seasons. The 37-year-old Federer, a three-time champion in Madrid, is preparing to make his first French Open appearance since 2015.

Federer hasn't played on clay since Rome in 2016, but is looking for his third title of the season to add to his triumphs in Dubai and Miami. The only other player with two titles this season is Thiem, who beat Federer in the Indian Wells final. Federer and Thiem could meet in the quarterfinals in Madrid.

The defending champion in Madrid is Alexander Zverev, the German who did not drop his serve in his winning campaign last year. He will start this year's tournament against David Ferrer, the veteran Spaniard who is retiring following the tournament in Madrid.

Petra Kvitova will defend her title in the women's side. The second-seeded Czech is a three-time champion in Madrid and the tournament's most successful women's player with 27 wins and six losses. Naomi Osaka is the top-seed player this year in Madrid.

EAGLES

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and Luke Sobresemana made one field goal apiece for their 8-4 lead. Justin Du and Daproza scored the 4 points for GCA.

The Eagles then mounted a comeback in the second period with Daproza, Railee Yumul, and Steven Adriatico teaming up in slicing the deficit to a deuce at the break, 10-12.

When the game resumed, Valdoz's turnaround jumper and Mateo's 15-footer kept the Phoenix on top before the Eagles' hustle plays on both ends of the floor fueled GCA's successful comeback.

Daproza led the Eagles with his 10 points, while Castro stepped up in absence of GCA captain Lance Lerio and contributed 6 markers. Valdoz top-scored for the Phoenix with his 10 points.

In other results, Mount Carmel School barely escaped past Saipan Community School, 20-19.

Up by just a point to start the fourth period, 14-13, Gabby San Nicolas nailed a trey and a deuce for 5 points, while Leo Naraja hit a free throw to save the Knights. SCS came close to seizing the lead, as McDonald and Miles Borja registered 4 and 2 points, respectively, but the Tsunamis ultimately fell short.

San Nicolas finished with 9 points, while Naraja added 7. McDonald led all scorers with his 11 markers.

The Knights now have an 8-3 slate, while SCS stumbled to a 4-7 card.

Meanwhile, Agape Christian School will host NMIS today, while Saipan International School and MCS will duke it out at the Koblerville Gymnasium. Over in Susupe, Seventh Day Adventist will visit SCS to cap the regular season matches.

First Game

GCA 30—Daproza 10, Castro 6, Justin Du 4, Woo 4, Adriatico 2, Alepuyo 2, Yumul 2.

NMIS 17—Valdoz 10, Mateo 3, Pineda 2, Sobersemana 2.

Scoring by quarters: 4-8, 10-12, 20-12, 30-17

Second Game

MCS 20—San Nicolas 9, Naraja 7, Borja 2, Galang 2.

SCS 19—McDonald 11, Aleksenko 6, Borja 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-2, 14-10, 14-13, 20-19

McIlroy positioned for run at third Wells Fargo title

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Harden shines as Rockets outlast Warriors in OT

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Tenorio, Podziewski NCAA-bound

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Sunjoon Tenorio and Dai Podziewski may soon bring their acts to the prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Tenorio and Podziewski have committed to play for Suffolk University, an NCAA Division III school based in Boston and competes in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference with 11 other colleges.

"I'm excited to go to the best city in the world, in Boston, to continue my journey as a soccer player. I'm looking forward to the new challenges and the level of play at the collegiate ranks, and I know this isn't the last step in my journey," said Tenorio.

The striker plays for MP United in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League and has won numerous Golden Boot award. Tenorio also suited up for the CNMI Men's National on several occasions and is considered as one of the top scorers of the squad. In the 2019 Spring Men's M-League, he led the Teen Ayuyus to a perfect 6-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the regular season and scored the most goals (14) in the elimination round. Tenorio and his squad were scheduled to play Tan-Holdings Football Club in the semifinals of Division A of the M-League last night.

While Tenorio is best known for his offense, Podziewski prides himself for being one of the pesky defenders of the national youth squad. Podziewski is excited for the opportunity to play in the collegiate ranks and thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association for opening the door to him and other aspiring youth athletes.

"I'm very excited to be able to continue my soccer career at Suffolk University. It's made possible through all of the opportunities we got from NMIFA and the support from my club, MP United, my family, and friends. I'm looking forward to the challenge of playing against elite competitions," Podziewski said.

Both Podziewski and Tenorio admit that playing in the collegiate ranks would be intimidating, but they are glad that they have each other to count on in their next journey.

"Going with my teammate Dai makes me comfortable knowing that I will already have a friend on the team," Tenorio said.

"It will be great to play with one of my closest friends and teammates, Sunjoon, because of the sense of familiarity we would have in the unknown environment, and we can continue to push each other to be

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PODZIEWSKI

TENORIO

Eagles soar past Phoenix

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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Grace Christian Academy wrapped up the regular season on a high note after defeating Northern Marianas International School, 30-17, in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League last Friday at the Eagles' court in Navy Hill.

The Eagles overcame a 4-8 deficit in the first quarter to overtake the Phoenix and clinch the No. 3 seed in the playoffs after finishing the elimination round with a 7-4 record. The Phoenix, on the other hand, dropped to a 2-9 record and have one game remaining in the regular season.

Ryan Daproza made a layup early in the third period to even out the score, 12-12, then Justin Du nailed a turnaround shot to to give the Eagles their first taste of the lead, 14-12.

After leapfrogging the Phoenix, the Eagles maintained a tight grip on the lead behind their suffocating defense. While NMIS failed to put points up in the penultimate period, five GCA players netted field goals to give their team a 20-12 advantage heading into the fourth period.

Daproza had a putback and fastbreak layup to start the fourth canto, while Richard Castro and Praise Woo also scored. The Phoenix's second half meltdown continued in the last period, as they managed to tally just 5 markers, allowing GCA to record a 13-point winning margin.

The Phoenix bowed to the Eagles despite coming out swinging in the first quarter. Eddie Valdoz delivered 4 points for NMIS, while Justin Mateo

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy's Praise Woo drives baseline against a Northern Marianas International School defender during their middle school game in the CCOPSA caging last Friday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.